

BAY AREA REPORTER

VOL. XX NO. 18 MAY 3, 1990

395 NINTH STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-3831

TELEPHONE: 415/861-5019

INS Office Occupied

Sanoe Activists
Stage Sit-In;
24 Arrested

by Peter Altman

AIDS Activists from Stop AIDS Now Or Else held simultaneous demonstrations in the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service on May 1 to protest INS discrimination against people infected with HIV.

About 60 SANOE/San Francisco members occupied the Sansome Street offices of David Ilchert, regional INS director, late Tuesday afternoon, demanding an immediate halt to mandatory HIV testing by the INS and an end to U.S. entry and travel restrictions based on HIV status.

Twenty-four activists were arrested for holding a sit-down strike inside one of the INS rooms. "I came here to occupy the office because of their unjust policies. What we're doing is really important," one



A SANOE activist behind the desk of INS official Phil Water.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

demonstrator told the *Bay Area Reporter* as she was being arrested. "Our goal is to get the INS to grant our demands, which are to stop discrimination against people with AIDS or on the basis of sexual orientation."

Four officers carried her to a waiting paddywagon. Other

activists lined the office halls.

The chanting activists who staged the sit-in sang "God is a Dyke" to the tune of *My Country 'Tis of Thee* and shouted AIDS activist slogans as Federal Protection Officers responsible for security at federal offices stepped in to arrest the demonstrators.

The activists were critical of the INS decision to grant 10-day waivers to foreigners planning to attend the Sixth International AIDS Conference in June.

They say such a move is insufficient and demand that all INS laws specifically targeting

(Continued on page 14)

Lesbian: Gay Exec Sponging Off Poor

by Dennis Conkin

A prominent lesbian welfare rights activist has demanded the resignation of a gay man from the city's Department of Social Services Commission following a bitter public hearing on welfare fraud on April 25.

Barbara Nabors-Glass, co-director of Income Rights Project, a local welfare rights group, charges that DSS Commissioner David Neely "has no courage and no sensitivity to the needs of the poor and has been making his living off the backs of poor people for too long."

Neely is under fire for his support of Fraud Early Detection, a new DSS program that investigates welfare applications that have been determined to meet "fraud profile" criteria.

Nabors-Glass and others demanded that Neely, a public interest lawyer who works for an East Palo Alto group, resign

(Continued on page 11)

SFAF Unfurls Controversial Condom Ad

by Dennis Conkin

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics have this week launched what is guaranteed to be one of the most controversial safe-sex ad campaigns ever produced.

As controversial as the ad are the use of some city funds for the campaign.

The ad features two smiling, embracing — and half naked — young men, one of them with a pierced nostril, sexily draped in an American flag. One of them is holding up a condom.

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," the tag line reads.

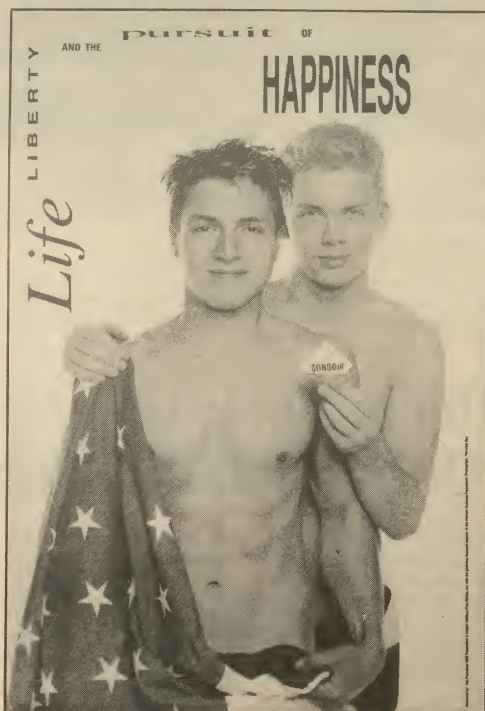
According to Les Pappas, a SFAF spokesman, "gay men are Americans and have every right to the flag, and life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as everybody else."

Pappas acknowledges that the ad campaign will be controversial.

"Jesse Helms isn't going to like it, but he's not going to like any portrayal of gay men in a positive way."

Pappas denies that the advertisement desecrates the flag.

"They're not urinating on it



Controversial AIDS Foundation ad.

or burning it, they're just holding it."

According to Barry Lawlor of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics, "the ad targets younger guys in high-risk groups who have sexual behavior that leads to HIV infection."

Lawlor says that younger gay men do not identify with

safe-sex campaigns that target other subcultures of the gay community, such as street queens, clones or older gay men.

According to Pappas, although most of the funds used for the ad campaign are from a private foundation, the city approved the ad and the use of city funds in the campaign. ▼

Study: Alpha Interferon Sparks AIDS Remission

by Rex Wockner

To the bafflement of scientists, 99 persons with AIDS in Kenya have shown dramatic remission after dissolving small amounts of the drug alpha interferon in their mouths, according to the April 2 edition of *Biotechnology Newswatch* and mainstream news reports.

The study conducted by Dr. Davy K. Koech, director of the Kenyan Medical Research Institute in Nairobi, said that within days of taking oral interferon, all of his PWAs regained their appetites and saw their fevers, diarrhea, mouth sores, swollen lymph nodes and fungal infections diminish.

By the eighth week of treatment, the symptoms had disappeared completely in all patients, Koech said. The PWAs also had a significant increase in the white blood cells that are destroyed by HIV, the suspected AIDS virus.

The amount of interferon chewed daily in wafer form was extremely small (100-200 units). Injections of several million units of the drug in the United States have not been shown to benefit PWAs.

U.S. Researchers responded to the findings by speculating that oral administration of the drug might prove effective if certain cells in the mouth and throat absorb interferon and somehow stimulate the im-



Dr. Anthony Fauci: "You've got to keep an open mind."

mune system. But scientists have few ideas on just how or why this might happen.

The first U.S. placebo-controlled trial study on the treatment is being set up at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, under Dr. Joseph Hasset. Results will be known within two months, Hasset said.

In the meantime, a few New York PWAs have already left for Kenya to receive the treatment there, according to news reports.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, called Koech's reports "astounding and very difficult to believe," but said, "you have

(Continued on page 4)

Gay Groups Strategy Meeting

by Dennis Conkin

More than 35 gay groups ranging from Lesbian Agenda for Action and ACT UP to The Log Cabin Republican Club and Dykes From Hell will participate in a strategy meeting for the lesbian and gay community on May 19.

The meeting, to be held at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., from noon-4 p.m. will offer gays and lesbian groups the opportunity "to sit down and listen to each other" and discuss perspectives about the present and strategies for the future.

"The 1990s will provide many new opportunities and challenges to the lesbian and gay community. To meet these challenges our community must seek an even greater unity and cohesiveness," said Jean Harris, a member of Lesbian Agenda for Action.

"As a step in that direction, Harry Britt brought together representatives of different community organizations to broaden our unity."



Jean Harris

According to Harris, the format of the day will be two hours of presentations about issues of concern to the lesbian and gay community, with representatives and speakers from different groups.

Following a short break, groups will then detail their strategies for the future.

For more information about the meeting, contact Ming from the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance at 496-0736, Chris from the Log Cabin Republican Club at 826-4835, Bob from ACT UP at 255-9790 or Jean Harris at 554-5148.

Singer Michelle Shocked Admits Having Lesbian Sex

by Rex Wockner

Singer Michelle Shocked, in an interview in the May issue of Chicago's *Outlines*, acknowledged that she has sexual relationships with women, but stopped short of calling herself a lesbian.

Speaking to reporter Christie Nordhielm following an Earth Day concert in Lincoln Park, Shocked said: "If this is in any sense a coming out on my part, it's that I would like a much broader definition for myself. Not everybody is that way, but for me, I've never really been able to fit into square holes or round holes. So for my part, I just leave the question open."

But a few moments later, Shocked continued: "I resent like hell that I was maybe 18-years-old before I even heard the 'L' word. I mean, that's understood, growing up sheltered in a Mormon environment. But it would have made all the difference for me had I grown up knowing that the reason I didn't fit in was because they hadn't told me there were more categories to fit

into."

Shocked said that only in the past three or four years has she been "willing to take myself out of the prison I created. I just built barricades," she said. "You know, I obviously didn't fit into society, so my reaction was, 'Well, fuck you.'"

Shocked had her first woman lover about a year-and-a-half ago, she said, but does not now automatically identify as a lesbian.

"To be honest," she explained, "the real fear of coming out of the closet — not fear, but the real pressures of coming out of the closet had been if you had certain problems identifying yourself one way or the other. It's been difficult."

Shocked granted the interview to *Outlines* to clarify her position on "outing," which she had criticized from the stage during an April 20 concert in Chicago.

ACT UP members attended the concert and reportedly demanded that Shocked make an announcement about an upcoming demonstration.

Shocked finally read the announcement, but prefaced it with the comment, "if you want to support an organization that drags people out of the closet."

She did not complete the sentence. ACT UP members responded negatively to the remark.

In the *Outlines* interview, Shocked described outing as "unethical" and "destructive."

"It's a cannibalism," she said, "yet I perfectly understand the frustrations."

Shocked seemed to imply in the interview that she had some concern about being outed by ACT UP herself, but both ACT UP and *Outlines* writers say no such threat was made.

"There was no plot to out her," said Carol Hayse of the ACT UP women's caucus. "We never thought she would be in any way hostile to ACT UP. Outing Michelle Shocked was the last thing we were worrying about at that time. It would have been about 980,000th on our list."

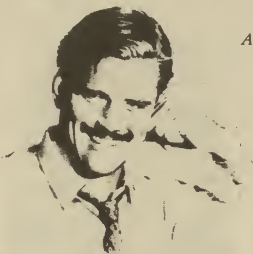


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Dragged Out

ACT UP/Portland altered this campaign billboard in downtown Portland to out Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.). Many in Oregon's gay community believe the popular senator to be a closeted gay man who consistently votes against the gay community.

(Photo: Thomas Schroeder)

Dannemeyer Letter Equates 'Outing' With Blackmail

by Cliff O'Neill

U.S. Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Calif.) has expressed his views on the subject of "outing," or threats to expose anti-gay closeted public officials, in a recent "Dear Colleague" letter to House members.

"'Outing' is the new term being used by homosexuals to describe the act of accusing public officials of being homosexual when these officials fail to support the homosexual political agenda," Dannemeyer wrote in his April 23 missive. "Such a failure is now termed 'gay bashing' in the new vernacular."

Breaking House mores, which frown upon directly criticizing other Members of

Congress by name, in his letter, Dannemeyer includes quotes from openly gay Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Gerry Studds (D-Mass.) from a March 22 *Los Angeles Times* article on the subject of "outing" and accused them both of political "blackmail."

Studds released a terse, two-word statement in response to Dannemeyer's letter.

"It's preposterous," Studds said.

Frank, who similarly attacked Dannemeyer directly in a much-publicized "Dear Colleague" in January 1989, officially declined comment on the Dannemeyer letter.

Terming the practice of "outing," "blackmail," Dan-

nemeyer directed his comments to the House ethics panel, which is investigating Frank's relationship with male prostitute and pimp Stephen Goble at Frank's request.

Dannemeyer suggested that the panel consider the issue of "outing."

"Two tragic ironies emerge from these statements," Dannemeyer said. "... AIDS activists have finally endorsed restrictions on civil liberties — not in an effort to fight a communicable disease, but in the effort to fight public officials who happen to disagree with them."

Dannemeyer, long a proponent of mandatory HIV testing and name reporting of

(Continued on page 16)



Nazi-Free Zone

About 250 anti-racist demonstrators gathered at Haight and Ashbury streets on May 1 in response to the traditional May Day march of Nazi Skinheads. The few Nazis who showed up were quickly chased away.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Right-Wingers Protest Fox-TV's Gay Soap

by Dennis Conkin

A right-wing women's group is doing its bit to keep the airwaves pure by threatening to boycott sponsors of a Fox-TV gay soap opera, *Forbidden Passions*, which debuted in March.

"It is reportedly a very candid and explicit look at the gay/homosexual lifestyle as perceived by producers," Beverly LaHaye of Concerned Women of America charged.

"Of course, they are showing this perverted lifestyle in a positive light. Reportedly it is actually showing men kissing and in bed together, all on TV, coming right into out living rooms, accessible to our families and children.

"I refuse to stand by while filth and perversion is promoted as a positive, natural lifestyle and is, in effect, crammed down the throats of decent Americans who support traditional family values," she said.

La Haye, in a begging letter, asked supporters to make

"sacrificial" checks to the group to combat the program. She also asked people to send post cards to the heads of the major networks protesting such programs and demanding that they keep them off the airwaves.

Passions is filmed in Orange

'It is actually showing men kissing and in bed together...'

County, headquarters of the Traditional Values Coalition.

According to *USA Today*, producer David Gadsberry of Golden West Productions, is "just trying to promote a positive image for the gay community and better understanding for the non-gay community."

Gadsberry said that much of the story line was based on real events.

CUAV Needs Volunteers

Volunteers for the Community United Against Violence crisis hotline are urgently needed.

The 24-hour hotline provides crisis counseling and referral service to victims of anti-lesbian, anti-gay or gay domestic violence. Volunteers must be willing to accept late night phone calls referred to you by the CUAV answering service.

No counseling experience is necessary, although people with prior peer counseling training are encouraged to participate. All volunteers are required to attend two evening training sessions on May 14 and May 21.

People of color and Spanish-speaking people are particularly urged to volunteer.

For more information, contact Community United Against Violence at 864-3112 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays.

Correction

A photo cutline in last week's *Bay Area Reporter* was incorrect. ROTC does not have a program at the College of Alameda. ROTC officers were recruiting on the campus during a career opportunities day.

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RETAIL ENTERTAINMENT!

Alpha

(Continued from page 1)

to keep an open mind."

New York AIDS doctor Joseph Sonnabend called the reports a "most conjectural and off-the-wall proposal.... If they are substantiated," he said, "we will have to write another chapter in the book on immunology."

Still, Sonnabend said he would gladly give oral interferon to any PWAs who want it because the drug is non-toxic at the levels suggested.

"It's not going to hurt," Sonnabend said. "I don't see why

I should withhold non-toxic interventions if people want them. I can't see on what grounds I should discourage someone."

Alpha Interferon given intravenously is approved in the United States for treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma, genital warts and one form of leukemia. Recent phase-three trial studies have also shown that the drug holds promise for individuals suffering from chronic active hepatitis B.

Koeh received the alpha interferon from a Lubbock, Texas veterinarian, Dr. Joseph M. Cummins, according to Associated Press. Cummins heads Amarillo Cell Culture Co. Inc., and has used alpha interferon to treat sick cattle. ▼

Gay Fraternity Encounters Resistance in Community

by Keith Clark

Greek fever, the rapid growth of the number of campus chapters of the gay fraternity Delta Lambda Phi, is catching in Northern California, and the collegiate rush of new chapters of the gay fraternity is spreading from campus to campus.

But the fraternity's growth, which has been marked by a lack of controversy — at least among gays and lesbians who have generally supported the group — has now become something of a hot political issue at the University of California at Berkeley where some gay and lesbian students have expressed strong reservations about Delta Lambda.

The Bay Area growth of the gay fraternity, perhaps not too surprisingly, leads the state, with three of the state's chapters — at San Francisco State University, one at San Jose State University just approved in March, and a nascent chapter forming at UC-Berkeley.

And it is at UC-Berkeley that the fraternity has run into its

most vocal opposition among gays and lesbians who have expressed concerns about the organization allying itself with an institution — the Greek fraternity system — that some consider inherently homophobic, sexist and oppressive.

In the April 27 issue of the *Daily Californian*, the campus newspaper, members of the Multicultural Bisexual Lesbian Gay Alliance, Liam Kernell and Susan Carlton, voiced reservations about a gay fraternity "buying into the Greek system" on campus. Those concerns caused Delta Lambda to hold a news conference of their own on April 30 to defend its position within the campus fraternity network.

'Extremist End'

Brian Muller, who is shepherding the new chapter into existence at UC-Berkeley, said the objections were those of a "certain extremist end" and not representative of the views of the majority of gays and lesbians on campus.

"There's a certain extremist end of the gay community,"

Muller told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "that feels that all the institutions that exist in Western society are bad — they discriminate, they do this, they do that. And we as responsible, politically correct gay people shouldn't be making our organizations in their image. Well, I agree that we shouldn't be making them in their image with respect to discrimination, but I really resent the rest of the line of that argument."

"These are the people that would be opposed to things like Dignity and Integrity; they would be opposed to things like the Log Cabin Club. I strongly resent anyone from the gay community saying that I, as a gay citizen, have an obligation not to be Catholic, not to be Republican, not to join a Greek house.... That's none of their business."

Carlton, who coordinates the Bisexual Rap Group on campus, says that's not the issue at all. "We're working basically on a level of education, trying to raise this as an issue and get a debate going," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*. (Continued on page 23)



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Mobilization Against AIDS Lobby Team Coordinator Andy Ilves.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

AIDS Group's Letter Drive Targets Key Legislators

by Keith Clark

Mobilization Against AIDS has launched a statewide campaign to marshal the lesbian/gay community in California for an on-going political letter-writing campaign aimed at turning up the political pressure on key California legislators in the fight against the epidemic.

The San Francisco-based AIDS organization is best known for the annual International Candlelight Memorial, which this year will be observed in more than 200 cities by hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

Mobilization's "Lobby Team" is aimed at creating a "standing army of people" committed to the seemingly simple task of writing four to eight letters a year to specific members of the California congressional delegation who are crucial in the federal response

to the epidemic, particularly in areas of funding and appropriations.

Emergency Situation

Paul Boneberg, executive director of Mobilization Against AIDS, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "Mobilization, like other AIDS groups, did lobbying in an emergency situation and we would ask people to write letters or make phone calls maybe a couple times a year when the budget came up or the governor vetoed something."

"But they were basically emergency situations. The Lobby Team differs in that we are asking people to make a commitment to write four to eight letters a year. It will be an on-going lobbying effort, and that's what differs between our program and frankly everybody else's anywhere in the country."

Mobilization, according to

Boneberg, is one of the few AIDS organizations in the country that identifies itself clearly as a gay and lesbian group, and has been rather quietly successful as a key player in several important AIDS fights during the past few years.

It was a leading force in the fight against the Dannemeyer-Gann Proposition 102 in 1987 and, along with groups like Project Inform and ACT UP, lobbied the National Institutes of Health to bring parallel-track testing of new AIDS medicines on line.

The Lobby Team effort, however, marks a more aggressive effort by Mobilization to influence the direction of Congress, especially in AIDS funding areas.

Leadership Role

It could also put the group in an unprecedented political (Continued on page 13)

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School Boss Cortines Chided Over Gay Center Remarks

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Ramon Cortines is under fire from gay educators and activists over a series of press comments he made about a proposed resource center for lesbian and gay students in the SFSUD.

Cortines does not support the Project 10 program, which would provide gay students a place to go to meet each other, have rap and other discussion groups.

The center would also provide information about sexual orientation, counseling and other services to lesbian and gay students.

"We have to be very, very careful about enticing young people as it relates to their sexual orientation," Cortines told *San Francisco Independent* reporter Donna Mooney.

"It's not the school district's role to advocate a particular role for a young person because those are formative times and I think there is a lot

we don't know about growth and development as it relates to sexual orientation," Cortines said.

Gay teacher Tom Ammiano attacked Cortines for his remarks.

"That comment is something one would expect to hear from the likes of Lou Sheldon, not a superintendent of Schools. It demonstrates a lack of compassion and sensitivity that one would not expect from an educator."

"It makes it sound as though I'd be in a black cocktail dress trying to lure kids into the Center," Ammiano said.

According to the *Independent*, Cortines said that sexual orientation issues were issues that parents should be "informed (about) and involved in."

"What's he talking about?" said Jean Harris, an aide to Supervisor Harry Britt. "I couldn't talk to my parents about my sexual orientation until I was 32. Does he think kids are going to want their

parents to know? Kids often don't want to talk to their parents about private issues like sex or sexual orientation. Supervisor Cortines' comments are extremely homophobic and of very serious concern to the gay and lesbian community," Harris said.

His comments, according to activists, open the door for right-wing attacks.

"If Cortines had used the word recruitment for enticement, you'd have a classic Anita Bryant statement. Jean Harris and I have spoken with Superintendent Cortines on the phone. We have shared our utter dismay at his inflammatory comments, said gay activist T.J. Anthony.

According to Anthony, the Project 10 proposal sponsored by School Board member Libby Denebeim is the subject of "intense political machinations and disputes" that have little to do with the gay community.

Cortines was unavailable for comment.



AIDS Bike-A-Thon 6 is Saturday, May 12.

AIDS Bike-A-Thon Needs More Participants, Sponsors

More than \$1.2 million has been raised by the all-volunteer AIDS Bike-A-Thon since its first ride in 1985. Last year 1,500 people participated in the ride through Golden Gate Park, the Presidio, around Lake Merced and in Marin. On Saturday, May 12, AIDS Bike-A-Thon 6 hopes to break all previous records.

Four routes allow both the casual rider and the sports enthusiast to participate. The 10-mile ride serenely loops through the park, while the nearly-flat 25 mile ride covers the citywide beauty of San Francisco. The best-bicycle trails of San Francisco and lower Marin are featured in the 60-mile ride. The 100-mile century challenge through San Francisco and Marin has become an increasing favorite through the years.

Four rest stops provide riders food, basic medical attention, massages and mechanics, as well as other

general needs. An extensive communications network and more than 80 street monitors ensure everyone a safe ride. Sag vehicle support will be available.

After the ride a buffet lunch, hours of entertainment and a souvenir commemorative T-shirt will be offered.

The steering committee and representatives from the 15 beneficiaries for AIDS Bike-A-Thon 6 will be out at 18th Street and Castro registering riders from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday.



This year's beneficiaries are the AIDS Emergency Fund, the Aris Project (Santa Clara), the Asian AIDS Project, Ayurveda Health & Education Resources, the Black Coalition on AIDS, The Center (Oak-

land), Ellipse, Peninsula AIDS Services (San Mateo), Face-to-Face (Sonoma County), Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Inc., Marin AIDS Support Network, Most Holy Redeemer Support Group, Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS), Project Inform, Project Open Hand and 18th Street Services.

Unlike some of the other AIDS fundraisers produced on this scale, there are no employee salaries or coordinator/consultant fees paid out. All volunteers freely donate time and skills and all pledge monies go directly to the beneficiary designated.

For more information or to register and receive your pledge kit, call (415) 282-1647. If you don't have a bicycle, you can still participate. Volunteers are still needed. Call Dan Clark at 648-8473. If you would like to donate food or supplies, please contact Ira Olney at 587-4899.

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Bay Area Reporter Open Forum

VOL. XX NO. 18 MAY 3, 1990

NEXT ISSUE OUT: MAY 10, 1990

NEXT DEADLINE: MAY 4, 1990

EDITORIAL

B.A.R.

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Benro Enterprises, Inc.
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EXECUTIVE & EDITORIAL OFFICES:
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-3831

TELEPHONE:
(415) 861-5019, 861-7230

PUBLISHER:
Bob Ross

NEWS EDITOR:
Jeff Boswell

FEATURES EDITOR:
Daniel Mangin

PRODUCTION EDITOR:
Michael Yamashita

FINE ARTS EDITOR:
George Heymont

POLITICAL EDITOR:
Wayne Friday

OFFICE MANAGER:
Tony Lindsey

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:
Ann S. West

ART DIRECTOR:
Richard Burt

PRODUCTION ARTIST:
Ric Scott

TYPESETTING:
Henry Mach

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER:
Rick Gerharter

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Darlene/PhotoGraphics, Robert
Pruzan, Rink

CARTOONISTS:
Kurt Erichsen, Frisch,
Wade Harold, Kris Kovick

LEGAL COUNSEL:
Thomas E. Horn, Esq.

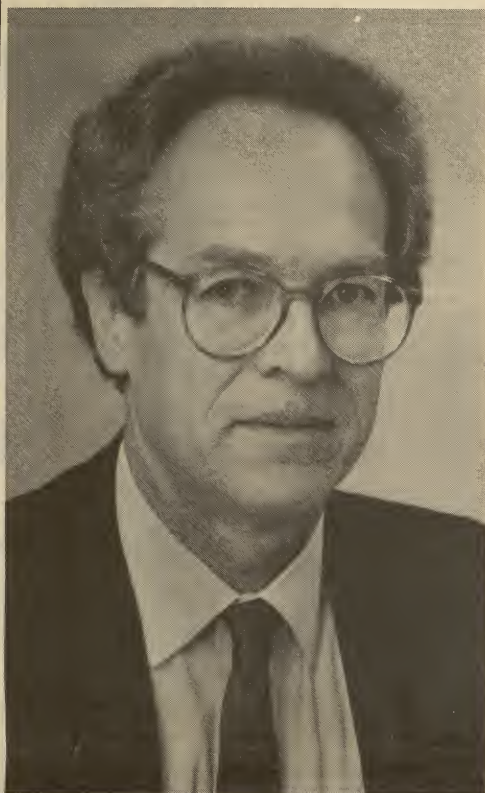
AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT:
Robert J. Dern, C.P.A.

CONTRIBUTORS:
Dianne Aaronson, Steve Abbott,
Dorothy Allison, Peter Altman,
Les Balmain, Noreen C. Barnes,
Ron Bluestein, Cindy Bologna,
Michael C. Botkin, Kate Brandt,
Philip Campbell, Keith Clark,
Dennis Conkin, Jerry R. De Young,
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Ray O'Loughlin, Cliff O'Neill,
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Alex Saldamando

Judge Alex Saldamando

The choice for Superior Court, Department 3, is made easy by the candidacy of Judge Alex Saldamando.

Judge Saldamando has distinguished himself for 11 years as a member of the Municipal Court. He has earned a reputation for fairness, impartiality and swift execution of the law. He is another candidate with immense community involvement. He has worked as an attorney with the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance program and California Rural Legal Alliance, all the time advocating for the poor, minorities and underpaid labor. As an assistant district attorney, he was with the Consumer Fraud Division and helped to prosecute unlicensed building contractors.

The judge is still involved in his community by belonging to many professional organizations such as National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), La Raza Bar Association, California Judges Association and is president of the California Judges Foundation. He has been or is still active in the Coro Foundation, Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) and is a vice-chair of the San Francisco 2000 Committee. His elevation to the Superior Court would make him the second Hispanic on the 28-member bench.

Also running in the race for the open seat is Municipal Court Judge Dominique Olcomendy, a conservative Reagan appointee. He has virtually ignored the gay and lesbian community in this campaign. It is just as well; Judge Saldamando stands alone as the best-qualified, most sensitive, dedicated jurist in this race. He understands the struggles of minority people.

Judge Saldamando has earned the respect and support of a wide range of public officials, including Mayor Art Agnos and former Mayor Dianne Feinstein. He has made it a point to reach out to the lesbian and gay community. His efforts have been rewarded with many endorsements from gay legal advocates and community groups as well as elected gay officials. He is a good friend to our community and deserves your support in his race for judge. Vote for Judge Alex Saldamando for Superior Court, Department 3.

Julie Tang

This paper is pleased to endorse Julie Tang for Judge of the Municipal Court. We have supported this fine public servant over the years and she has returned that support to our community. She is still serving — and serving well — on the Community College Board. Julie has consistently voted on the liberal issues of concern to us and other minority groups at the Community College District. We have seen a large increase in night classes as well as a more diversified curriculum for members of the gay and lesbian community.

After graduating from Hastings, Ms. Tang began working at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office as an investigator in the Family Support Bureau. That same year she transferred to the Criminal Division of the District Attorney's Office and was assigned to prosecute cases; she also directed the Writs and Appeals Department. In late 1984 Julie returned to the Family Support Bureau to handle paternity and child support cases, which have included appearances before San Francisco Superior Court, the Bankruptcy Court and the Worker's Compensation Appeals Board.

Julie has extensive experience in criminal and civil law and has conducted both jury and court trials; she is a skilled negotiator and creative problem solver with demonstrated leadership abilities.

It has been the policy of this paper to support qualified gay and lesbian candidates first, then minorities and then qualified friends of our community. We have in this race two highly qualified candidates, both friends of the gay and lesbian community. We have been put into a difficult position to choose between Ellen Chaitin and Julie Tang. We urge your support for Julie Tang for Municipal Court Judge. We are sorely in need of more progressive jurists in our courts, and we believe Julie Tang fits that description perfectly.



Julie Tang

LETTERS

How You Play The Game

★ The opportunity arose March 24 for me to witness the Uncle Bert's Brats squad for the 1990 season. I see no clear cut reasons why this team should have been allowed to move from the open division to the recreational division.

First and foremost, if four of the gentlemen who stepped up to the plate for a scrimmage between the Brats and the Pistons are indeed on this roster, then that alone is a valid reason why the change should not have been allowed.

Secondly, to imply that the squad now has five women and therefore should not be in the open division is both shallow and insulting. Are women not allowed or capable of playing in the SFGSL open division?

I think we'll all agree that the answer to the above question is clearly NO! Most of these women are excellent players and are clearly capable of contributing to an already-established competitive team.

It is my opinion that full disclosure has not been extended to either the board or the general membership. Is winning that important? If so, then why not stay in the more competitive division?

At this late date I do not expect the board which I hold ultimately responsible for this execution, to make any changes. What I hope is that they will see it through to get up a committee to formulate and present guidelines for the following years, regarding divisions and who should be eligible to be in each of them.

In conclusion, it is my intention to express only my sole opinion and hope that as a result, all of us can move forward to a positive and productive season; whereby everyone joins in the spirit of enjoying each others' company and not just winning on the field.

Byron Matheur
San Francisco

Discrimination in Modesto

★ When discrimination becomes a sport, and it is the proprietor of a gay bar that is prejudging particular gay men, then it is time to educate that man about the freedom of the press.

Recently an associate of mine was assaulted by the proprietor of the Brave Bull in Modesto. If it had only been a rhetorical attack, we probably would have just forgotten the occurrence, but it wasn't. The proprietor physically assaulted my associate and threatened further physical injury.

My associate and I would probably have taken the burden of the dilemma on ourselves, but before we would file any charges and/or take care of the problem in some other way, someone sent a letter to your paper reporting the incident. I wish I knew who the person was because I'd really like to thank him; however, other problems have developed.

The proprietor of the Brave Bull has threatened to physically assault my associate again if he doesn't print a retraction to the letter he didn't even send. I think it would be blasphemous to even consider printing a retraction if he had sent the original letter to the *Bay Area Reporter*. I know I wouldn't. In fact, I would print another letter criticizing the man further.

We don't need bullies pushing our brothers and sisters around.

If anything happens to my associate as a conclusion to this letter, I certainly hope the man has a good lawyer and has eyes in the back of his head. I won't put up with a man who thinks himself better than any other man and must show that arrogance by physically abusing others.

James L. Palmer
Modesto

Misinformation

★ Your recent article on a cure for Kaposi's Sarcoma only served to reinforce my opinion that the B.A.R. is the *National Enquirer* of the gay press.

Does anyone realize that the way in which the newspaper consistently prints "scientific facts" is not only irresponsible but also a huge disservice to the community at large. You quote a doctor from the National Cancer Institute making a statement in regards to a cure for KS but then you made no attempt to follow it up with any facts or information on the drug itself.

The article also stated that most doctors "believed" that KS was caused by HIV infection. I have no idea which doctors you are referring to since your article used no quotes in this regard.

All the doctors I have spoken to on this issue all agree that even if KS is not a direct result of HIV infection some type of infection is necessary in triggering the co-factor that does cause KS (and

HIV is as good a candidate as any other infection).

What kind of message does this send to someone who is in total denial of their HIV status who happens to find a KS lesion on their bodies?

"There isn't any need to get treatment for HIV infection since the B.A.R. (my community newspaper) says that KS isn't caused by HIV infection."

Whatever the outcome of the research into this question the facts are that a large majority of people who have KS are in FACT HIV infected and desperately need to address that issue in their lives.

To give hope is one thing but to assist someone in denying their HIV status by publishing irresponsible information is criminal.

I thought that misinformation was strong five years ago when I was diagnosed with AIDS and KS, but after reading this article I was grateful that I wasn't reading your paper five years or I might not be alive today.

Robert Baxter
18th Street Services
San Francisco

Ed. Note: See article and editor's comments on Page 5 of this edition.

Riot? Hell Yes!

★ Larry Kramer, writer and founder of ACT UP, originally called for a riot at the forthcoming AIDS conference to be held here in San Francisco in June. He then apparently had second thoughts and backed off from that position.

Aren't we a little tired of being good little boys and girls and marching off to our graves? Isn't it about time we did a little more than peaceful protest? How many of us must die before we stop sewing, stop silly street theatre and show the power structure in this country that we are not going to peacefully die anymore?

Everett Koop, the former surgeon general, was on *Nightline* last week and gave a status report on AIDS. He said there had been little progress in the last five years. When are we going to demand that our government get serious concerning this crisis and spend whatever it takes to bring it to an end? Are we going to wait until there is no one left to protest?

If this epidemic had affected just children, you can believe that it would have been conquered by now. Ted Koppel said that there seemed to be good victims (Ryan White) and bad victims (homosexuals and drug addicts). If we gays are the bad victims and thereby not worthy of much concern, let's show the government what "bad" people will do when their lives are threatened. Let's show the world that we are men and will not take it anymore!

Ronald E. Bayles
San Francisco

Straight Society

★ I am writing my personal point of view toward gay and lesbian awareness.

It's so hard for people to come out as themselves because of the pressure of a straight society. I myself have always been ahead of my time. I crave emotional closeness which I can't get from a guy. People always think it's against nature for someone to be gay.

I grew up in a strict home where everything was so structured into that American dream, that dream where the two are married, have kids, raise them to go to college and get a job, so one day they might live that same life as their parents.

The only problem with that is everyone can't live that life. Can you imagine if we all tried to live that life? The next year generations in this country would be so populated I wouldn't want to see the whole United States to be like New York City — no lakes or mountains and forest. China is a country that still lives in tradition. They're so populated, the suicide rate is high. I see things as a whole. Just as Martin Luther King had a dream for blacks and equality. I believe in equality for gays and not to put gay people in stereotypes.

I have always seen through that superficial Catholic life. Two gay lovers can be a lot closer than a husband and wife. People always act like they want to avoid the issue. They act like it would never happen to them. How do they know that maybe their children might be gay? Then they would have to deal with the issue. If people are a lot more accepting it will make it easier on the next generations to come. Just like Martin Luther King brought freedom to a nation over the generations.

Janet Nabong
Concord, CA.

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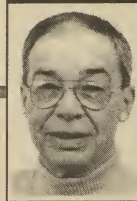
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LETTERS

Reviewer Off Base

★ David Perry's review of my play, *The Ant Colony*, deserves a response, partly to set the record straight about his accusation of homophobia — also to point out that what he thought he observed often was not really there.

First, I do not understand why he would say there are too many subjects being handled ... pollution, destruction of the rain forests and ozone layer, and impending nuclear or bacterial warfare. These dangers exist today and are closely interrelated in cause and effect. So why shouldn't they exist 50 years in the future, only more so?

The play makes a social and political statement that, if we don't clean up our act now, we may find ourselves in a future just like the one portrayed in *The Ant Colony*. It is clearly stated in Act I (in a dialogue between the Poet and Engineer) that the cause of these ills is not "some easy answer like overpopulation" but rather "human greed." This theme is spoken and implied throughout. Rather than being a confusion of too many elements, the various elements are interrelated as a vehicle for the message or theme that man is destroying this planet and the basic reason is greed.

Mr. Perry accuses the play of "bad taste" and "homophobia," as if the attributes of the characters reflect the author's personal beliefs. He also misquotes a number of times, as when he attributes "homophobic remarks" to "Dev," which are actually spoken by the Wino who calls the Poet a "blind hippie fag."

Again, this is a character speaking, and is meant to show the prejudices of the Wino coming out as the worst insult the Wino, a degraded character, can think of to express anger at having to share his digs with the Poet, and attempting to belittle him.

In another misquote, Mr. Perry speaks of an imminent war "with Russia." Russia is not mentioned once in the play. This is deliberate, to imply that such a war can be started by any country at all, even in a tiny one, now that many countries have nuclear bombs and bacterial weapons.

Mr. Perry objects to the scene where the young Poet confesses to his woman, Peg, that he "had to sell his body to survive," (alluding to his bisexual prostitution). This was stated as a fact that would be common in such a scenario, and used to show the tragedy of his situation. If he did it for fun, it would not be tragic, therefore its rationale in the play.

In another misinterpretation — Mr. Perry criticizes the "lesbian relationship" between the street urchin and Peg, as "pasted on homosexuality." Clearly this theme was not intended, and does not appear either in dialogue or action. Even the actors were amazed at this interpretation. Peg clearly refers to Liddie the girl as "my sister," after she and the Bag Lady rescue Liddie off the streets; the suggestion is that Liddie has been brutalized by men "up top," and thus she "hates men." Mr. Perry's paragraph analyzing a non-existent lesbian relationship is way off the beam.

Mr. Perry asks "what is the point" in *Dev* (the Hit Man) referring to "pussy," which Mr. Perry finds offensive. This again is a character speaking, and it would be silly to have him speak in euphemisms. His language in reality would be much worse. He is portrayed with no mercy or kindness, and the point is to show that the women on the other side of the brick wall are in danger from him if he learns they are there. This is essential to the character and plot.

I have been asked why the men are portrayed negatively as constantly fighting and destroying each other. This is a dramatization of our present situation where, after all, men are still running the world, and have gotten us into this mess. Their characters are prototypes, and thus their qualities are exaggerated. But the message is clear that "man" kind caused the mess we are in and now they will have to get us out of it. Perhaps this message is the imagined "homophobia" the critic sees in the play, too painful to face, and having nothing to do with male sexuality.

Mr. Perry says the production is "poorly executed" but he praises the "surprisingly professional performances by a noble cast." It is surprising to me that he does not realize the director is at least partly responsible. At many rehearsals I watched Dan Fogel choreograph almost every leap, turn, gesture and "beat." He deserves credit for helping these talented actors achieve their fine performances. Furthermore, it is hard to see how a "noble" performance can be achieved without at least some noble lines to speak.

Dan Fogel with his "youthful enthusiasm" (faint praise) has the courage to present new plays with content bound to stimulate controversy and disagreement. However, judging by our audiences and their enthusiastic applause, laughter, rapt attention and comments afterward, the play

was successful. The beautiful sets, created by Mark Bode (well-known comic book artist) and Larry Baumiller (local actor, director, playwright and designer), helped create the terrifying and claustrophobic mood our audiences have commented on of the impending doom, which is uncomfortably close to the truth.

I thank the *Bay Area Reporter* for giving me the chance to respond.

Frances Spencer
Author, *The Ant Colony*
Berkeley

AIDS Conference Concerns

★ There are many of us in San Francisco who are quite concerned about the threat of violence during this June's Sixth Annual International AIDS Conference.

Thousands of medical, scientific and social service professionals from a variety of countries, some traveling at extreme sacrifice, will meet to exchange information and learn new ways of fighting this epidemic.

There will also be thousands of people with HIV disease, their families and friends expressing their concern, anger and frustration that many national governments (ours chief among them) have responded far too slowly to the devastation wrought by AIDS.

Add to this the thousands of people who migrate to San Francisco during that week to celebrate Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day, and you have a potentially combustible mixture. And the world press will be here to record how we deal with it.

There are some AIDS activists, from outside San Francisco, who have called for riots on the streets of our city. This is deplorable.

The harm that such violence can do, to those involved in any action, and to the fight against this epidemic, is legion. Such behavior will only supply more ammunition to those who would slow down the fight against AIDS.

At a time when the level of money and volunteer effort cannot keep up with the need, we must find ways to make our points creatively and non-violently.

All national and local faith groups and organizations who are concerned about this epidemic must let their voices be heard. Let us work together to send a peaceful but powerful message to the world that this epidemic must end.

Bob Nelson
Chair, SF Interreligious Coalition on
AIDS

First Rate Putdown

★ Congratulations to E. Wellthorpe for one of the funniest pieces I've read in some time: his/her letter "A Dope Named Dorothy" in the April 19 issue of *B.A.R.* It's a first-rate putdown of the extremes to which ideologues can go.

Psychologists, particularly psychoanalysts, have discovered profoundly disturbing elements in nursery rhymes, fairy tales, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and dozens of other classics we were all brought up on.

But it has remained for Wellthorpe to give *The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz* — the book as well as the film — its definitive satiric comeuppance.

The villain of the piece, although described as "The Wicked Witch of the West," is, in fact, only a woman "accused of being a witch."

Moreover, she's a woman of color — green!

The real villain, Wellthorpe says slyly, was not the poor woman who "dissolves into anguished oblivion" but a man, The Wizard of the film's title: "a lying media-manipulating bastard!"

And Dorothy, as portrayed by Judy Garland, is a person "who participates in mass murder and can think of nothing but getting back to Kansas and male-dominated farm slavery."

Satire is said not to play in Iowa. I hope it plays in the Bay Area. But I fear that just as people in Jonathan Swift's time took seriously his "modest proposal" that superfluous babies are eaten to relieve the local famine, so some of your readers will miss the delicious humor of Wellthorpe's letter and take it seriously enough to write angry letters agreeing or disagreeing with its thesis.

Which should make the talented E. Wellthorpe chortle happily. Responses of earnest approval or apoplectic outrage are not more than he — or she — deserves.

Allan Covici
Kensington, CA.

LETTERS

Drag Queens: Get a Life

★ The recent "drag queens vs. royalty" flap made for hilarious reading, but it's really a somewhat nonsensical non-issue. After all, as far as the overwhelming majority of gay men are concerned, it doesn't matter if some local embarrassment wears fur or feathers or rags, or calls itself Marlena or Doris Fish or Vinnie or Jerome. All negative stereotypes are ugly and dangerous and harmful to others, and besides, when you come right down to it, one talentless old transvestite ends up being pretty much like another.

I have never pretended to understand the psychological motivation that would compel a man to go to the trouble — not to mention the obvious expense — of donning unattractive, physically uncomfortable attire and wandering around town begging to be (in some cases by popular election, no less) publicly recognized as a painted geek. I can't imagine why any man would expend so much energy in order to aim so low. So incredibly low. And of course, the worst part is that what these looney-tunes do is not harmful and degrading only to themselves, their antics are a major destructive force in the lives of men they will never even meet. Every time some bearded jerk in a nun's habit or some transvestite in a tutu flounces across Market Street (or worse, across the TV screens of Middle America), multitudes suffer.

Maybe these posturing pollutants don't care. Maybe they do care and are deliberately dumping the miserable results of their self-loathing insanity onto the lives of men who do not share their serious gender identification problems. Maybe, being lamentably lacking in character, they try to be a character, not realizing that it's not the same thing. And maybe, as the evidence indicates, they just aren't very bright.

George Buchanan
San Francisco

12-Step: Good and Bad

★ This letter is in response to the ongoing dialogue recently addressed by the not-so-anonymous John C. Connelly III and one Mr. John Gettys, himself perhaps a constructive example of the fallacy of totalitarianism.

I use the 12 steps and fellowships in my life, but I do not agree with everything that "they" say.

For me it is important to be true to myself, not a dogmatic replica of a program that works for a minority and is obviously not perfect spiritually or otherwise.

Perhaps if 12-step programs were not so totalitarian, they would work for more than a small percentage of those who check them out and perhaps they would work for less, I don't know but then no one does. For me totalitarianism is a disease, a lack of self-trust and probably a necessary and constructive phase in some of our paths. The 12-step program I attend begins with an obviously fascist statement that everyone who enters its rooms is doomed to jails, institutions and death if they attempt to ever use a mind or mood-altering substance again; for me this was an important fear device, or maybe I just accepted it unnecessarily for a while. Today this is not my own truth.

John G., if you are generally happy, honest, emotionally real, contributing to this planet and still willing to grow and change, then whether you use drugs is unimportant to me. If you spend a lot, a real lot of time, thinking about how great it is that you and others can do drugs and how some people can't or are maybe too brainwashed to try, then in my opinion you may or may not have a problem with drugs but you may have a life-threatening mental disease.

John C., if you really would defend your utterly black and white version of the world, including your version of the complete nature of drug use in humans the way I understood you to in your recent editorial, then you may also have a life-threatening mental disease (in my opinion), which may require opening up your mind to using other modalities to address this problem outside of rigid 12-step dogma preaching of which you seem quite familiar, with exception to a tradition or two.

Some of the happiest people in my world are in 12-step programs, and some are not, and some of them use drugs. Some of the most miserable people in my world are in 12-step programs and some of them have years of continuous recovery and work the 12-step way. My world is full of paradoxes — isn't yours? In closing, I am eternally grateful to 12-step programs because they work for me, and I will continue as long as they do.

Now a bit of my own map-making "catma":

Only the willing get brainwashed. Only the ignorant or unwilling take diamonds and throw them in the gutter. One man's diamond is another man's gallstone. If it, whatever "it" is, works for me, what ever it is, do it. Even if what works for me may not work for the majority, may even kill you or is against 12-step dogma, do it. If it stops working or doesn't work to begin with, take the time to get humble, take risks, take it easy, find something that does the job and use it. I can never be "right," I can only be honest, unwilling, ignorant or afraid.

Happy, joyous, free and full of lust and rage, I am:

M. Zuvuya
San Francisco

'HIVER' Offensive

★ In the past few months my lover (a person living with AIDS) and I have noticed that Michael Botkin seems to have coined a new term for people living with AIDS and HIV infection, "HIVER(s)." We are disturbed that you would share the practice of the straight press in reducing some 75,000 unique and individual people living with AIDS (and upwards of a million more living with HIV infection) as only being identified as a health condition and not as people, not as whole and vital human beings.

While the term is perhaps not as offensive as "AIDS victim," it is no less subjugating. Using terms that so narrowly define people allows the reader to deny the "HIVER" as a real person with real life concerns much like their own. "HIVER" perpetuates the dominant media construction of people living with AIDS and HIV infection as "the other," as essentially different from the so-called "healthy general population."

Who should know this better than lesbian and gay people who have witnessed the lives of our friends, lovers and family be totally altered or ended by the AIDS epidemic.

We hope in the future you will see fit to type those few extra key strokes and identify people living with AIDS and HIV infection with the minimum of dignity they deserve by first naming them as people and not reducing their whole being to the results of a blood test.

Rama and Arawn
San Francisco

Ed. Note: B.A.R. Columnist Michael Botkin is himself HIV positive.

Curb Homophobes

★ On Saturday, April 14 at 8:30 p.m., we were accosted by 10-12 juveniles on Church Street between Duboce and Market Streets. They repeatedly called us "Castro Fags," spit at and shoved us, and hurled bottles and rocks at us. Fortunately we carried whistles and used them to bring attention to the situation. Several adults became involved — at least one dialed 911 and their presence helped neutralize the situation. Unfortunately it took the police 25 minutes to respond — long after our attackers had fled. When they did arrive, we were discouraged from filing a report by the police officers. We were left with a sense of inadequate police protection in that neighborhood.

In the April 9 issue of the *Duboce Triangle News*, an increase of muggings and other criminal activity on Church Street between Duboce and Market was cited. We feel it necessary to share this experience in hopes of raising awareness that this is happening, as well as to vent our anger and frustration at being targets of hostility, simply because of a perception of sexual orientation. Our attackers were all teenagers and racially mixed (white, black and Hispanic). To encounter such intense hostility from youths who ethnically seemed to represent the diversity of our city was highly alarming.

We want to encourage several things in the event that you experience or witness an attack. Carry a whistle and use it. Enlist the support of as many people as possible. *Dial 911!* The more people respond by dialing 911 in any given instance of violence, the greater the likelihood of a prompt police response. Insist on filing a police report and report incidences to Community United Against Violence.

While these measures may not eradicate hatred and intolerance, they may well prevent injury and go some of the distance in discouraging hate crimes.

Ed Carrington
Chris Barnett
San Francisco

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Other Top Statewide Races

This column has covered the spirited race for governor, the battle in the GOP for the right to face incumbent Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy, and the tight battle between Arlo Smith and Ira Reiner in the attorney general's race.

Other statewide races are those for secretary of state, treasurer and state controller. Democrat March Fong Eu has held the post of California secretary of state since 1974, and she is seeking a fifth four-year term this year.

The June 5 primary finds two Republicans, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Joan Flores and Gordon Levy, a Los Angeles county assistant district attorney, fighting it out for the dubious right to oppose

Eu, who has been nothing less than a one-woman institution in California politics since she left the Assembly 15 years ago to replace then Secretary of State Jerry Brown.

Both Flores and Levy feel that despite Eu's longtime incumbency, the possibility of running on a ticket led by Sen. Pete Wilson could make her vulnerable.

Polls show the Flores-Levy race a toss-up, with Flores possibly a slight favorite.

State Treasurer Thomas Hayes, a Republican appointee of George Deukmejian, is opposed in next month's primary by former U. S. Treasurer Angela Bay Buchanan, a sister of noted anti-gay conservative commentator and columnist Pat Buchanan.

The probable Democratic nominee in the November general election is Kathleen Brown, the sister of former Gov. Jerry Brown and the daughter of former Gov. Edmund "Pat" Brown, an attorney who once served on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works and the L.A. Board of Education.

Hayes is favored to defeat the conservative in the GOP primary but trails Brown in the latest California Poll in a possible November match-up.

Brown does have a primary opponent in Compton City Treasurer Wesley Sanders Jr., but he is at a disadvantage because of Brown's wide state name recognition, political connections and fundraising ability. And Brown is obviously looking past next month's primary to the November election.

An interesting race is shaping too in the state controller's contest where incumbent Democrat Gray Davis and Republican attorney Matthew Fong are running unopposed for their party nominations in June and will face off in the November election.

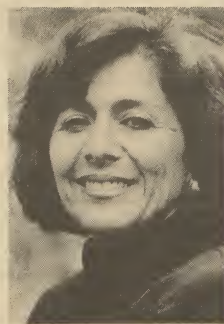
Davis, seeking a second term to the controller's office, briefly considered running for governor this year, but after taking a look at the polls in a race that featured the better-known names of Dianne Feinstein and John Van de Kamp, decided to seek re-election to the lower profile job he won four years ago.

Though incumbency is considered a big advantage, Davis could be in for a real fight against the 36-year-old Fong, who is the son of March Fong Eu.

Fong ran his mother's re-election campaign in 1982, before switching parties and becoming a Republican. While probably considered the favorite, Davis is considered vulnerable by some political observers, and this race could be one of the more interesting this year.

Cranston Revelation

After months of running up and down the state attempting to do political damage repair after all the negative publicity about his ties to the disgraced Lincoln Savings & Loan scandal, Sen. Alan Cranston acknowledged last week that he had a \$300,000 line of credit from the S&L group during his 1986 re-election campaign.



U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer



March Fong Eu

Of course, Cranston's slack is quick to point out they "didn't use it." So? However, it is nice to have that kind of ready cash, just in case. And this from the same savings & loan group and its head, Charles Keating, who also gave Cranston another \$39,000 for his senate campaign — plus a whopping \$800,000 to "voter registration groups" controlled by the senator.

It should be noted, of course, that the Senate Ethics Committee and the Justice Department are still investigating allegations that Cranston and four other senators, all of whom, like Cranston, received donations from Keating and the Lincoln S&L, intervened improperly on Lincoln's behalf with federal regulators who were investigating the Lincoln group.

Cranston, of course, maintains that the huge donations — and now the revealed credit line — had nothing to do with his intervention on Keating's behalf — "only doing what I would do for any constituent," says Cranston (any constituent makes these big bucks available, now don't they?)

Boxer for Senate?

Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer, one of those standing in line to take on Sen. Moneybags in the event he follows through with his threat and runs again in 1992, has quietly hired L.A. political consultant Joseph Cerrel to help raise campaign funds, though she maintains it's for her current House re-election campaign.

If, as most expect, she runs for Cranston's seat, she will need to boost her name identification and her fundraising abilities beyond her Northern California base, and hiring a political consultant from Southern California is certainly a step in the right direction.

Endorsements

Two influential black

groups, the Frederick Douglas Symposium and the Black Leadership Forum, endorsed Feinstein for governor and Arlo Smith for attorney general this week.

Montoya Sentenced

And as though to show there is some justice in politics, ex-state Sen. Joseph Montoya, never a supporter of gay and lesbian issues, incidentally, was sentenced to 6-1/2 years in the joint last week for always having his Senate vote for sale.

The judge in the Montoya case said the former Democratic legislator from Whittier operated under the idea that "My vote is for sale. I am here to vote the way I'm paid."

Meanwhile, a number of other Sacramento lawmakers are reportedly getting a bit nervous.

Kopp for Mayor?

He would, of course, deny it, but a number of Quentin Kopp's friends will tell you that if he wins re-election this year by a big enough margin, he will take another look at a possible mayoral campaign against Art Agnos.

Say What?

In Sacramento the female City Council majority and the Public Works Department are seeking a synonym for "manhole" because "women are now going down into those holes," says Mayor Ann Rudin.

In case you're interested, the entry deadline for the DPW new name contest is May 4, and first place prize is an expense-paid trip to Lodi, Calif., where "person access chamber" covers are made.

Read My Lipstick

And the Sacramento-based California Women Legislators Caucus this year started conferring "Read My Lipstick" awards when political utterances are seen to demean women.

(Continued on page 12)

Sheriff's Office Hiring Deputies

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department is looking for men and women who are interested in a career in law enforcement.

The only permanent Civil Service examination in two years for the position of deputy sheriff will be offered soon to qualified applicants.

You must be at least 20 years of age, have a high school diploma or G.E.D., one year of college or work experience, a valid California driver's license, and no felony convictions.

San Francisco residency is not required.

Starting salary is \$32,442 a year, with benefits including 14 paid holidays, two weeks paid vacation, choice of five health plans, excellent promotional opportunities, plus many other benefits.

For information, call the Lesbian/Gay Outreach Hotline at (415) 433-4999 (evenings only). A volunteer from the Golden Gate Peace Officer's Association will call you back within a few days.

That volunteer, who will be a San Francisco deputy sheriff, will give you additional information concerning workshops and other recruitment activities. Or plan to attend a privately sponsored GSPOA workshop to meet



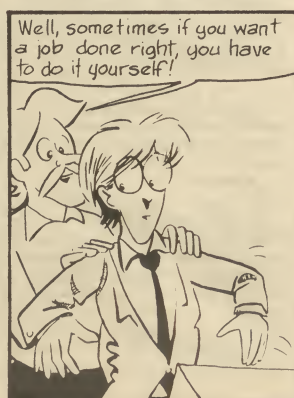
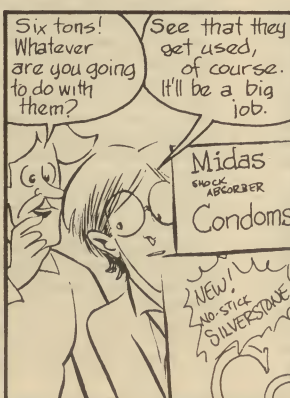
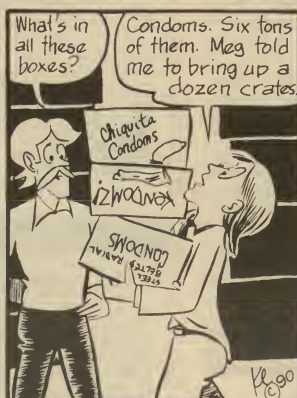
Sheriff Mike Hennessey

Sheriff Michael Hennessey and a number of gay & lesbian deputy sheriffs. They will brief you on the application process and answer your questions.

The workshop is planned for Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m. at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant St., 2nd Floor, in Dept. 17 of the Municipal Court. Pick up an application — one day only, May 24, at City Hall.

Hennessey said "The next few years will see this department develop as never before in professionalism, growth and career options. If you want a job that offers excitement as well as a future — join us." ▼

MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen



PAWS for a Good Cause

Mueller's Deli on Castro Street sports a design by Pets Are Wonderful Support encouraging people to enter the AIDS Bike-A-Thon.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Poor

(Continued from page 1)

after he failed to second a motion that would have temporarily suspended the implementation of the program pending community review.

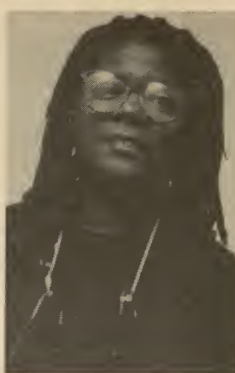
"He works for a law firm that represents welfare clients. I bet they don't know that he's oppressing poor people in San Francisco. I really question his credibility as a civil rights lawyer," Nabors-Glass said.

"I have no respect for the brow-beating and the insults that came from the advocates," Neely told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I reject the view that advocates have the corner on defining the needs of their clients. I'm an advocate myself. Reasonable people can disagree."

"That's bullshit and I'm a reasonable person," Nabors-Glass told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We're not talking about a disagreement. We're talking about someone who has control over thousands of people's lives, the kind of food they eat, the clothes they wear and whether they live in homeless shelters or not. How dare he call himself a civil rights lawyer. How dare he invoke the mantle of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks!"

"If the advocates are offended by the Commission and the Agnos administration, how are they going to like it under Mayor Maher?" Neely said.

According to Paul Boden, a spokesman for the San Francisco Coalition of the Homeless, the issue is the violation of civil and human rights, not who is mayor.



Barbara Nabors-Glass

"That's a bullshit comment for a commissioner to make. It's irrelevant who the mayor is. He's missing the whole point. A violation of people's rights is a violation whether it's Mayor Maher or Feinstein or Walker or Agnos. Advocates would oppose whoever was violating someone's rights. His comment shows no concern for people. Agnos doesn't have anything to do with this," Boden said.

DSS officials estimate FRED will save the city between \$1 million and \$2 million a year in fraudulent requests for AID To Families With Dependent Children and General Assistance.

The program was initiated at the request of DSS General Manager Julia Lopez, following a December 1988 investigation of 479 GA recipients by the District Attorney's Office.

In that study, 237 recipients receiving GA had out of county addresses and 156 had multiple names or social security numbers. There were nine

cases where clients received duplicate aid.

Although DSS officials have stressed that GA workers are forbidden from running warrant checks on GA clients, investigators for the DA determined that of the 470 cases reviewed, 45 of the recipients were wanted on felony arrest warrants and another 117 were wanted on misdemeanor offenses.

About 12,000 families receive AFDC benefits that start at \$567 for a single parent with one child. An estimated 10,000 clients receive GA benefits of \$347 per month.

"Until the system has integrity, people won't support higher benefit levels. That won't happen when people say that it's OK 'to get over,'" Neely said.

Neely introduced a motion adopted by the commission that eliminates some aspects of the FRED program, including proof of eviction for victims of domestic violence living in shelters for battered spouses and automatic review of cases in which the GA client may be receiving some income.

DSS regulations were recently changed to allow GA clients to have a small monthly gross income.

Neely's motion also required that clients be required to give written consent before workers can contact third parties.

Boden blistered Neely for the motion.

"He's a fucking civil rights lawyer. He knows that consent under duress is not content," Boden said.

(Continued on page 19)

AIDS Briefs

Senate Panel OKs AZT Early Use

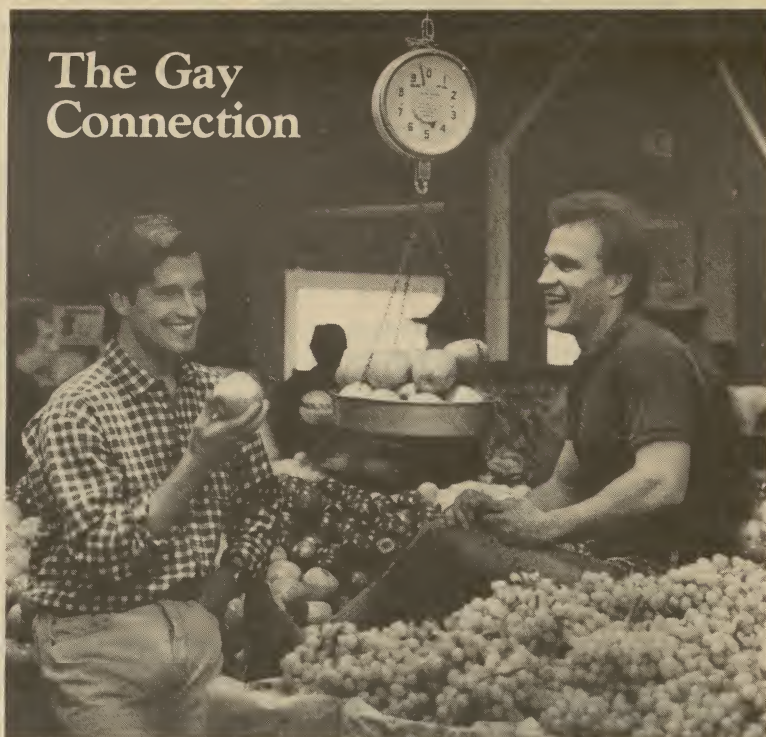
Legislation that would make the experimental AIDS drug AZT available to persons who are infected with the HIV virus but who have not yet exhibited clinical signs of infection was approved April 25 by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Authored by Sen. Milton Marks (D-San Francisco/Marin), Senate Bill 2367 would allow the Medi-Cal formulary to provide AZT to people who are eligible for Medi-Cal, who are HIV-infected, who are clinically asymptomatic for AIDS and have under 500 T4 helper cells per cubic millimeter, or they are clinically symptomatic for AIDS and have between 200 and 499 T4 helper cells per cubic millimeter. Recently, the Federal Food and Drug Administration approved the use of AZT for those persons with 500 T4 helper counts or less and who are asymptomatic.

Bingo Nets SFAF \$10,000

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank received \$10,000 from Coming Home Hospice Bingo at their San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank Bingo Night in April. Coming Home Hospice Bingo, an all-volunteer organization, has raised nearly \$200,000 for the Food Bank and the AIDS Emergency Fund in the last four years. "Hospice Bingo Night" fundraising has helped the AIDS Foundation Food Bank continue to serve more than 1,200 clients per month and distribute 500 bags of groceries each week," said Pat Christen, San Francisco AIDS Foundation executive director. "This \$10,000 will buy 1,700 bags of groceries. Regular contributions from organizations like Hospice Bingo Night allow us to continue to serve people with AIDS and ARC who need food," said Food Bank Director Lou Valla. "We have to keep up the fundraising and we have to do more because every year the number of people in need increases by 25 to 30 percent."

Kaiser Needs AIDS Volunteers

Kaiser Permanente Medical Center's AIDS Volunteer Program is recruiting caring people to work with their AIDS patients. AIDS volunteers provide companionship, emotional support, massage and practical assistance as needed to the AIDS patients in the hospital and outpatient clinics. They make a great difference in the patients' stay. Prospective volunteers receive a weekend-long training program on working with AIDS patients before beginning as a volunteer. They agree to a six-month commitment of three hours per week (days or evenings, weekdays or weekends) and the one meeting per month (on the second Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.). Twice a year there are mini-retreats to assist the volunteers with the issues that they are dealing with. The next training program is scheduled for Friday, July 13, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 14, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, July 15, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you are interested in becoming an AIDS Volunteer or for more information, please call Dave Seibert, MSW, AIDS Volunteer Coordinator at 929-4186 by June 22.



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Friday

(Continued from page 1)

The first such award went last week to Larry Malmberg, president of the statewide Peace Officers Research Association who recently endorsed Pete Wilson for governor, commenting that "I don't think the voters are ready for a woman governor."

When a reporter asked why Speaker Willie Brown didn't get the award (Brown has been quoted as saying that the League of Women Voters should "stay in the kitchen" because the League is supporting a reapportionment initiative Brown doesn't like) Assemblywoman Sally Tanner (D-Baldwin Park) said, "Our caucus will consider it; thanks for the suggestion."

The National Commission on AIDS, issuing its second report to President Bush last week, recommended that the federal government create a high-ranking group such as a Cabinet-level task force to coordinate a national plan for the epidemic.

Judicial Ratings

The San Francisco Bar, though not endorsing candidates this year, has rated the numerous judicial candidates in the June 5 primary. In the race for Municipal Court Dept. No. 1, Julie Tang was rated "well-qualified." Her opponent, Ellen Chaitin, was rated "qualified." In Superior Court No. 3 — both Alex Saldamando and J. Dominique Olcomendy, currently Municipal Court judges, were rated "well-qualified." Superior Court Dept. No. 15: Both incumbent Jerome Benson and attorney Donna Hitchens received "qualified" ratings.

In Municipal Court Dept. No. 3, incumbent Judge Lillian Sing, running against nominal opposition, was rated "extremely well-qualified."

Odds and Ends

Longtime Democratic Party County Chairperson Agar Jaicks and wife Diana, Sue Bierman and Andrea Jepson will host a fundraiser/reception for supervisor candidate Carole Migden at the Jaicks' home May 11, 5:30-7:30 (Call 252-0560 for info.).



Peddling coupons: R. Guy McGinnis, Gary Menger and Rose Mary Mitchell. (Photo: M.J. Murphy)

Gay Nineties Coupon Book Offers Restaurant Deals

by Mary Richards

The best buy in San Francisco isn't being bought. Five hundred copies of the Gay Nineties San Francisco coupon booklet, offering discounts in the city as well as Russian River on everything from food and drinks to dances and gyms, continue to sit on the shelf.

The idea of the coupon booklet was generated when R. Guy McGinnis, Gary Menger and Rose Mary Mitchell got together to raise money for the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco. Before they knew it, their project expanded and five organizations will now benefit from the proceeds of the booklet: Project Open Hand, Gay Rescue Mission, San Francisco Band Foundation, AIDS Emergency Fund and the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco.

The Gay Nineties booklet is selling to the public for \$15 a copy and if all 500-plus remaining copies are sold, each organization will receive \$2000.

Brunch, Lunch or Dinner

Some of the best buys included in the booklet are for brunch, lunch or dinner at 15 restaurants in the city. Certain restaurants offer specific discounts and at many of them, one dinner purchased for the regular price will include a second dinner free.

Ross Kesinger, an ARC patient for the last five years, bought the book recently. "I live alone," he says, "and so I'm always looking for things that will help get me out. I thought this was a good way, because there are coupons for the Russian River and coupons for two-for-one dinners. This will give me a chance to invite someone for dinner and it won't bust us both to go."

"People like that and since I don't cook and I have a few dinner obligations owed, this is a great way for me — everyone's happy."

Money generated from the proceeds of the booklet will be accounted for and funneled through the Horizons Foundation.

Gary Menger explains the function of that organization. "Horizons is the foundation that the Golden Gate Business Association (GGBA) created as a philanthropic group that gay people can donate money to that's tax-deductible," he says. "It's sort of like a gay United Way on a San Francisco level."

Since sales have been sluggish, Rose Mary Mitchell and Gary Menger have both approached the companies they work for in the hopes that they can convince them to make donations to purchase the booklets. These copies would in turn be given to the Shanti Project to be distributed to people with AIDS and ARC.

No Advertising

Some of the problems with sales is due to the fact that no advertising was budgeted for the project. "We didn't budget any money for advertising," Mitchell says, "because we tried to keep the cost of the coupons so low. We did a kick-off party and we thought that would bring in a lot more than it did. We sold 125 [booklets] there, which wasn't nearly as many as we had hoped to sell."

Even though it has been hard to get off the ground, Mitchell still believes in the value of the Gay Nineties booklet. "I go out quite a bit," she comments. "I'm always eating out. The fact that we're able to go and use these coupons at various restaurants really saves money. It's almost like an all-around win situation. There's not any way that you can lose. You spend \$15, you can go out every night of the week and if you use a coupon at least once, you're going to make back your money."

Editor's Note: The Gay Nineties San Francisco Coupon booklet, sponsored by 60 businesses and groups, can be purchased at the following outlets in the city: Headlines stores, A Different Light Bookstore, Books Etc., The Galleon, The Gate Restaurant, The Mint, Creative Edge Hair Salon, Stubbs (at Embarcadero Center) and in the Russian River at The Last Word Newsstand.

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SUPPORT THE AIDS BIKE-A-THON

Prostate Research Volunteers Needed

Researchers at the UC San Francisco affiliated VA Medical Center are seeking volunteers for treatment with a promising drug to relieve enlarged prostate symptoms — a common problem of aging — without surgery.

Non-veterans as well as veterans aged 50-75 with "benign prostatic hyperplasia," and enlarged prostate gland, may be eligible. Non-veterans will be seen at UCSF.

Drug treatment has dramatically improved symptoms in the first 50 study volunteers, says Perinchery Narayan, MD, chief of urology at the VAMC and UCSF assis-

tant professor of urology. So far, the improvement has persisted in all patients.

The promising drug, called terazosin, could be good news for some 2 million to 4 million American men whose prostates have enlarged enough to cause problems. The prostate gland, which surrounds the bladder neck and urethra in males, manufactures part of the fluid in semen and — for unknown reasons — gradually enlarges after about age 35. If they live long enough, Narayan notes, most men will eventually develop symptoms.

As it grows, he explains, the prostate squeezes the urethra,

narrowing its channel and impeding urine flow from the bladder. Results range from frequent urination and burning to infections, urine retention and life-threatening kidney failure. Despite possible complications such as bleeding and urethral strictures, surgery has been the gold standard of treatment.

All study-related medical care is free, and patients will receive the drug at no charge as long as symptomatic relief persists. For more information, prospective volunteers may call 476-8800 or 750-2103.

What Freshmen Think of Us

by Paul Varnell

For the last 24 years the American Council on Education and the Graduate School of Education at UCLA have cooperated in a survey to find out about the personal values and plans of entering college freshmen. One set of questions asks about opinions on some 22 different social issues from abortion, to drugs, to the environment. Since 1976 one of those questions was whether the students would agree with the statement, "It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships."

One of the most interesting, though little noted, results that turned up in the 1989 survey was that support for sodomy laws had sunk to a new all-time low: just 45.5 percent.

When the survey began asking about sodomy laws, freshmen support for them stood at about 48 percent. Between 1976 and 1985 support fluctuated in a fairly narrow 47-to-50 percent range. But then in September 1986, support jumped to 52 percent, and in 1987 it rose even higher to 52.1 percent. It is impossible to see these figures as anything other than a post-Rock Hudson delayed response to AIDS — combined with a fairly simple-minded notion that the way to stop AIDS is to criminalize one of the modes of transmission.

But then, apparently as AIDS turned out not to be spreading rapidly among heterosexuals — i.e., no longer a personal threat — support for sodomy laws receded in 1989 to 49 percent, and then in 1989 to just 45.4 percent. The fact that support, even if still bolstered by some lingering fears about AIDS, has dropped below even pre-AIDS levels must be taken as a sign of genuine progress for gays in the field of public opinion and an index of growing legitimacy for gays and gay lifestyles.

Still, it is hard to know what we are measuring when we ask entering college freshmen for their opinions. We are talking about people untouched by what we trust are the benefits of higher education; we are really talking about people just out of high school. It seems likely that their views are, more than most people's, still influenced by their parents and their peer group rather than resulting from fiercely independent thinking. And, again more than most people, they may be influenced by the mass media.

What seems more interesting and more certain is that that 45.4 percent figure masks some significant variations in response, variations which we need to take account of. Now I apologize to those whose eyes glaze over in the presence of statistics, but keep in mind that we are talking about what commencement speakers call "the leaders of tomorrow," and their opinions about us can affect our future.

The most noticeable difference in support for sodomy laws was between men and women. Fully 57.3 percent of all freshman males approved of sodomy laws, while only 35.1 percent of freshmen women did. It was one of the social issues on which there

was the widest divergence between men and women. How are we to account for this? Perhaps young men, still in the process of self-formation find it helpful (even necessary?) to assert their maleness by distinguishing themselves from (as evidence their disapproval of) homosexuals whom, we may guess, they take to be less masculine. It is an odd response, if so, based almost entirely on stereotypes; but if it is a real response, then we need to take account of it.

As to women generally being markedly less supportive of sodomy laws (i.e., more supportive of gays), we are not just talking abstract statistics here. When Palm Beach County Commission (Florida) voted to include gays as a protected class in the county's fair housing ordinance, who voted for it? All four women on the board — Republicans and Democrats alike. Who voted against it? The one man on the Commission (a Southern Republican). Or when bills were introduced to repeal Georgia's sodomy law, whose bill decriminalized all adult sodomy? Representative Cynthia McKinney's. Whose bill only decriminalized heterosexual sodomy? Her father William McKinney's (a Southern Democrat). To me, at least, this greater tolerance of homosexuality by women sounds like a sound self-interested reason for gay men to be generally supportive of women's greater involvement in the government, commerce and industry: it is to their advantage.

Variations nearly as large correlated with what the survey politely called the "selectivity level" of a school — i.e., its admission requirements. Freshman males at junior colleges supported sodomy laws by 63.5 percent; males at public universities with low entrance requirements were 55.9 percent supportive; males at public universities with high entrance requirements were only 39.3 percent supportive of sodomy laws. The same phenomenon obtained among women: at junior colleges, 40.5 percent; at low-selective public universities, 32.5 percent; at highly selective public universities, only 19.7 percent — less than one in five. It is impossible to resist the notion that this simply means that the more intelligent students are, the less likely they are to be homophobic, though there may be more to it than that (for instance, parental influence on high school achievement).

There were also differences between freshmen at public and private universities. Generally freshman males at public universities were more supportive of sodomy laws than those at private universities by 39.3 percent to 33.3 percent. For freshman women the percentages were 28 percent and 23.9 percent respectively. It is hard to read public versus private university attendance as anything other than an index of family income (i.e., ability to pay). If so, then there may be correlation between family income and tolerance for gays, which would be interesting to speculate about.

(Continued on page 19)

Letters

(Continued from page 4)

leadership role, not only in the state but also nationally.

The California congressional delegation is a potent force in the House of Representatives, particularly in budget and finance areas, where it holds collectively more seats than any other state.

California has five seats on the House Appropriations Committee — Reps. Dixon, Fazio, Lewis and Roybal — more than any other state House delegation.

On the Ways and Means Committee, the state has three seats — Reps. Matsui, Stark, chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, and Thomas — with only Illinois, New York and Texas holding as many.

And on the powerful House Budget Committee the state holds five seats — Reps. Beilenson, Berman, Boxer, Thomas and Panetta, chairman of the committee — more than any other state.

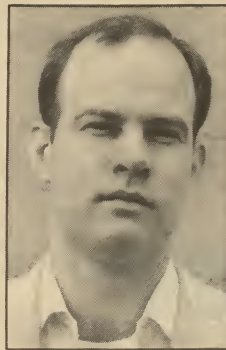
Boxer heads the committee's budget task force on health and social services.

Such a power concentration of California representatives in crucial budget and finance areas could not suit Mobilization's aims of increasing funding to fight AIDS better.

And although the Lobby Team was only just approved by the group's board of directors two months ago, its first constituent letter-writing campaign aimed at Budget Committee Chairman Leon Panetta (D-Carmel Valley), is already under way.

'Grand Deal'

"The chair of the House Budget Committee is part of the smallest inner circle that cuts the 'grand deal' with his



Paul Boneberg

counterpart in the Senate and the president as to where the trillion-dollar budget will be spent," Boneberg said. "So if you're trying to get increases of hundreds of millions of dollars for AIDS, he's one of the few people — perhaps the only person in Congress — who can really effectively advocate for that."

Andy Ilves is heading up the Lobby Team's initial effort of preparing the background material, political research and overseeing volunteers who are individually telephoning some 10,000 people on Mobilization's donor lists to recruit the people to write the initial letters to Panetta.

In only a few weeks of recruiting, a couple hundred people from around the state have already committed themselves to the Lobby Team's efforts.

Ilves told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "We found the response is actually pretty good and once people understand what it is that it involves, they're very enthusiastic."

"I think people find themselves frustrated about what they can do personally, especially on a larger level. There are various groups to volunteer for, but if people

want to change overall policies, then what can you do besides write a check or every two years go and boot someone out of office or re-elect them? So this is a way to get involved in the years in between and keep the pressure on the politicians."

Mobilization's vision of the Lobby Team is vaster than perhaps any on-going effort of its kind ever undertaken in the state, and may be in the country, and the group is pouring volunteer, staff and financial resources into the project.

A Standing Army

"Our goal," Boneberg said, "is to recruit 2,000 people in the state of California in 1990, and by 1991 to have somewhere between 5,000 and 10,000 people. If we can create a standing army of 10,000 people who will write letters, say, on a week's notice, who are informed because they've done this before and know what to do, we'll have enormous impact on elected officials."

He could be right. Many legislators are powerfully influenced by letters — especially by individual letters from their constituents back home. In this era of highly organized, well-heeled political pressure-group campaigns and counter-campaigns, many legislators have learned to more or less ignore form letters from organizations with vast mailing lists that can get thousands of people to send post cards or pre-printed letters.

"The people in Santa Cruz or Monterey who write to Leon Panetta," said Boneberg, "will write about legitimate problems in Santa Cruz or Monterey. We're not dictating the letters they write."

Mobilization Against AIDS' Lobby Team can be contacted at their offices at 1540 Market St., Suite 60, San Francisco CA 94102 or by phone at (415) 863-4676.

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Stop AIDS Now or Else occupied the district director's office of the INS in a protest of their anti-gay immigration policies.
(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

SANOE

(Continued from page 1)

people with HIV be cancelled permanently.

SANOE demonstrators also raised the status of hundreds of amnesty applicants who have tested positive for HIV and are awaiting decisions as to whether they will be allowed to stay in the country.

The amnesty applicants have already proven they have been in the United States at least since 1982 and probably contracted the infection here.

If such applicants are being denied amnesty because of their HIV status, there is concern that when they return home they will not be able to get work, collect public assistance, or get publicly funded medical care.

Several applicants have already been denied, a decision that SANOE says is tantamount to a death sentence.

At one point during the sit-in, police threatened to arrest members of the press if they did not leave the room.

After their departure, police separated activists who were conducting the sit-in from those who were lining the halls.

A scuffle ensued and one demonstrator was tackled to the ground.

A cameraman for *Electric City TV* was hit in the fracas by a police officer.

INS officials refused to



(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

A SANOE member in the INS district director's office.

speak to the press and stated that acting District Director Kevin Doyle would make a statement after the demonstrators were removed.

However, the entire INS staff turned off the lights and quickly left, apparently by way of the back door, when the press followed the demonstra-

tors to the front of the building.

One SANOE activist questioned the ability of the INS to answer any of SANOE's charges and said their back-door escape "left a deafening silence."

Those activists who were arrested were cited for creating a disturbance and released. ▼

Gay Man Files Complaint Over Opera Complaint

by Dennis Conkin

Selwyn Jones, a 68-year-old gay man, charges that he was slapped by an usher while being given the bum's rush during a incident at the War Memorial Opera House on March 1.

"On March 1, 1990, Mr. Jones attended a performance of the American Ballet Theatre at the Opera House and was standing with friends in the Standing Room Section, according to a letter from the Human Rights Commission to the War Memorial.

"Noticing that the last two rows of seats were empty all through the first act, Mr. Jones sat down in a vacant seat during the first intermission. On

this occasion, George Weiss, an usher, asked Jones to leave.

"Mr. Jones asked why he was being singled out, Mr. Weiss said it was OK this time. Soon, however, Frank McKay allegedly pulled Mr. Jones out of the seat bodily, struck him and led him to the lobby. Mr. Jones refused to leave, and the police were called," the letter said.

"He pulled me up out of my seat, held me from behind with his left arm across my chest and hit me on the neck with his right fist. When the security guard came, I asked him to stop McKay from hitting me," Jones said in a letter of complaint to the Performing Arts Center management.

Beth Murray, assistant

manager of the PAC, said that there were several versions of the incident and that Jones' story was difficult to corroborate.

Calling the incident "regrettable" Murray also said that WM/PAC regulations were very clear that standees are not allowed to sit.

"It's never been our intent to disregard this or enforce it on a selective basis, although I admit it's impossible to enforce it on a 100 percent basis," she said. "It's never been our intent to harass any patron."

According to Jones, he felt the incident was homophobic and said that he'd like to "be able to go the opera and ballet and feel safe" and not be subjected to homophobic comments or remarks from ushers.

"I've never been hit by anyone before in my entire life for being gay or anything," Jones told the *Bay Area Reporter*. ▼

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Censorship in Britain

Erections Outlawed, Videos Non-Existent

by Rex Wockner

As right-wing forces throughout America escalate their campaign to ban gay material — be it Robert Maplethorpe, photos in *Honcho* magazine or sex by phone — reports from Britain and Canada suggest that Americans, at least for the moment, still enjoy some of the world's least-restrictive pornography laws.

For example, Canadian Customs recently warned Boston's *Gay Guide To The Northeast*, that depictions of "excessive ejaculation on the human face," cannot be exported to Canada.

Intrigued, reporters for *The Guide* dug deeper and finally learned from Customs spokeswoman Linda Murphy that the issue is not so much the amount of ejaculate but rather "words or pictorial matter that depict ejaculation on the eye, in the nose or in the ears."

Canadian Customs in general

al bans all depictions of "sex with violence," "child sex," "incest," "bestiality," "necrophilia," "hate propaganda," "anal penetration" and, of course, "other."

In Great Britain, meanwhile, gay sex videos are expressly forbidden and, for all intents and purposes, photographs of erect penises have been banned.

Michael Mason, editor of London's *Capital Gay*, had a run-in first-hand with Her Majesty's Customs and Excise upon return from Amsterdam a few months ago. Officers confiscated a Falcon Studios erotic video, recorded his name, and told him if he were caught again, he would be prosecuted for smuggling.

Mason said the video was deemed either "obscene" or "indecent," and that it is now appealing the decision.

"To prove something indecent, all they need to do is go to the magistrate and wave it at him and say, 'Is this something

you'd pass around at a dinner party at home and not be embarrassed by it?'" Mason said.

British citizens returning from such cities as San Francisco, Berlin, Copenhagen and Amsterdam are routinely searched by Her Majesty's Customs.

Erotica produced inside Britain, meanwhile, faces only slightly less stringent standards. A British magazine that wishes to run a foul of censors must possess "a tendency to deprave or corrupt" as set forth by the 30-year-old Obscene Publications Act.

Police only began enforcing the act with a heavy hand in the past five or six years, and that's when magazine distributors notified publishers to cease depicting erect penises — or even two nude men together, erect or not.

In addition to the "deprave" and "corrupt" standards of the Obscene Publications Act, British publishers are also at risk under "Common Law" statutes such as "conspiracy to corrupt public morals, a category dating back to the Offenses Against the Person Act of 1861.

Common law prevents *Capital Gay* from publishing personal ads wherein one man says he wants to have sex with another.

"If we put two men together for the purpose of sex, it is unlawful — unlawful to procure an act of gross indecency between two men," editor Mason said.

Paradoxically, gay sex is not illegal in Britain, as long as no more than two consenting men or women above age 21 do it in private. Sex acts involving three or more people are forbidden.

When asked, "What if I submitted an ad to *Capital Gay* saying, 'I'm 21 and I want to have sex in my bedroom with one other man who wants to have sex with me.' What would you do?"

Mason, familiar with the illogical nuances of the law, said, "We would return your check and your advertisement. Now, if you had said, 'Mustached, dark hair, living in southwest London, would like to meet same, preferably hairy, for relationship,' you might get away with it, however."

Fortunately, Jesse Helms has yet to look outside the U.S. for inspiration in his campaign against everything gay. But when he does, he is going to find overwhelming sympathy amongst our English-speaking neighbors for clamping down on our right to read and view what we want.

The only solid weapon we possess is the Bill of Rights, something many Europeans envy. We can only hope this esteemed document doesn't emerge too tattered from the inevitable battles that lie ahead.

Readers wishing to protest the British restrictions on erotica should complain to: Rt. Hon. David Waddington, Home Secretary, The Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1. England. ▼

European Briefs

Filed from Amsterdam
by B.A.R. European Correspondent Gert Zeebregts

"Rob," S&M Artist, Dies of AIDS

Eleven weeks after his lover Dai Evans died of AIDS, Rob Meyer died in Amsterdam from complications of AIDS. He was 56. Rob started a store in S&M art in Amsterdam in 1977 and became world-famous for his leather creations and his role in liberating S&M with a wide audience all over the world. Rob was born in Amsterdam in 1933 and started making clothes when he was 10 years old. Rob was born to be a Daddy, as he recalls about his time in the army: "As a sergeant, the contact with the boys was really good. Despite my very young age, my rank allowed me to care for them like a father." Rob's home-business, making leather clothes, flourished in the '70s, when leather was on the rise and local bars like Argos and Club LL grew to world fame. His lover, Dai, whom he met in the early '80s, started a second "Rob's Gallery" in New York. ▼

Dutch PWA Writes to President Bush

Hans Paul Verhoef, the PWA from Holland who was arrested in Minneapolis last year on his way to a health conference in San Francisco, has written a letter to President Bush, urging him to lift all travel restrictions into the United States for people who test positive for HIV. It was a year ago that Hans Paul was arrested and kept in the Old Park Heights prison in Minneapolis/St. Paul for five days. When he was finally released under pressure of international groups and politicians, he was able to attend the last day of the conference, which Mayor Art Agnos declared "Hans Paul Verhoef Day." In his letter to the president, Verhoef says: "It is now a year later and although you had a good speech on AIDS lately, it is still possible that people with HIV/AIDS will find themselves in the same situation as I did one year ago. From the Netherlands we would like to point out once more why we think that travel restrictions for people with HIV/AIDS are discriminatory, useless and ineffective..." ▼

First Belgian Gay Pride Day in a Decade

For the first time in 10 years, Belgian lesbians and gays will take to the streets of Antwerp to celebrate Gay Pride. The celebration will take place on May 5. A special committee was formed to organize and coordinate the event which is expected to draw more than 10,000 people. The group, which consists of members of various lesbian and gay organizations, is called "Pink '90" and wants to bring gay pride out of the closet. Homosexuality is still very closeted in Belgium and lesbians and gays are discriminated against in all walks of life. Pink '90 wants to show Belgium how many gays there really are. In order to do this, the organization has called on Dutch, German and French gays to join the day as well. ▼

Promising Results from Pasteur Institute

Seven years after the discovery of what used to be called LAV, Dr. Jean-Claude Chermann, who worked with Dr. Luc Montanier at the time of the discovery of the AIDS virus, has come up with a promising new discovery in the fight against AIDS. Chermann has announced that scientists at the Pasteur Institute in Paris have found a way to block the "trigger factor" that turns a "sleeping" HIV infection into full-blown AIDS. For years, scientists have believed that this factor had to exist. For people who test positive for HIV, this could turn out to be the solution. If the "trigger factor" can be blocked successfully, people who are sero-positive will never develop AIDS. According to Chermann, his team has been successful in blocking the "trigger factor" in the earliest stadium, with the chemical "anti-beta-2-microglobuline." Chermann is optimistic about the results so far and believes that his discovery may lead to prevention of AIDS and to the development of an anti-virus. ▼

has ever since."

Dannemeyer

(Continued from page 2)

seropositives, has historically brushed aside arguments against those practices, which cite civil liberties and privacy concerns.

"Second," Dannemeyer said, "the 'outing' exercise is proof positive that the military was right all along — people can be blackmailed based on their homosexual behavior."

The California Republican further quoted National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Public Information Officer Robert Bray — although not by name from the same *Los Angeles Times* article, saying how he once ran into a closeted gay congressman in a gay bar.

"I introduced myself on the dance floor [to the congressman] and called to his attention the hypocrisy that he had been legislating against gays," Bray was quoted as saying in the letter. "He left the bar. He didn't say anything. But I think he got the message. He started voting pro-gay and

"There was no threat to blackmail," Bray said of his run-in with the allegedly closeted congressman. "And in fact, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is strongly opposed to 'outing' or any threats of blackmail based on sexual orientation." Of the Dannemeyer letter itself, Bray added, "It's sort of classic Dannemeyer: bizarre, factually inaccurate and antagonistic."

"William Dannemeyer has shown us once again that he has a screw loose," said Gregory King, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "The whole idea that he would use the internal debate on 'outing' to advance his own bigoted political agenda shows how desperate he is for attention. He must realize that he is no longer perceived as a legitimate spokesman on issues such as AIDS and the civil rights of lesbian and gay Americans." ▼



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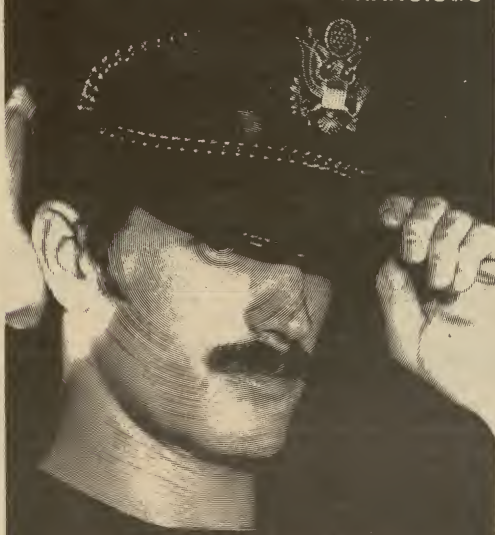
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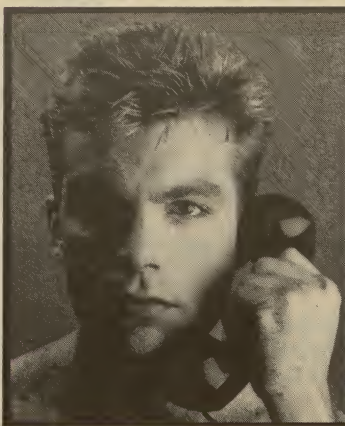
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ACT UP Kicks Off Boycott Of Marlboro Cigarettes

by Cliff O'Neill

Members of a D.C. AIDS activist organization, criticizing the Philip Morris Co. for funding the re-election campaign of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), on April 26 kicked off what they hope will blossom into a nationwide boycott of the company's Marlboro brand cigarettes.

Staging a brief protest in front of Philip Morris' Washington headquarters, members of the local chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power sought to draw attention to the company's continued funding of the campaign of the North Carolina senator who is up for re-election this year.

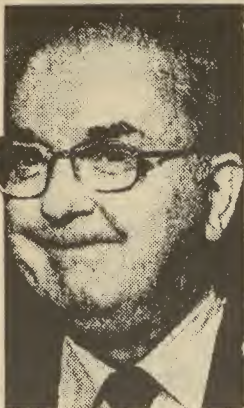
"The reason we chose Marlboro cigarettes is because we think that when you mention North Carolina to many gay and lesbian people they think of two things: tobacco and Jesse Helms," Michael Petrelis, a spokesperson for the group said. "We want to equate the two so that people will stop smoking Marlboro as a way of getting Jesse Helms out of office."

Philip Morris, which produces Marlboro cigarettes, has historically been among the larger corporate contributors to Helms' campaigns.

In a move that has further angered Helms' detractors, Philip Morris has also donated \$200,000 to help establish the Jesse Helms Citizenship Center in Wingate, N.C., according to the *News and Observer* of Raleigh.

Throughout his 17-year tenure in the U.S. Senate, and particularly in the past five years, Helms has emerged as the most vociferous and keen-minded opponent of gay and AIDS activists, routinely bottling up AIDS-related legislation with parliamentary procedure and introducing a variety of anti-gay amendments to a host of bills.

To counter Helms, the ac-



Jesse Helms

Philip Morris, which produces Marlboro cigarettes, has historically been among the larger contributors to Helms' campaigns.

tivists have targeted Marlboro cigarettes, Philip Morris' most popular cigarette brand, which itself commands 26 percent of the American cigarette market.

"Marlboro is the largest-selling single brand in the United States," said Emmet Underwood, another ACT UP/D.C. spokesperson. "If the ACT UP boycott is successful in reducing that percentage to 25 percent — a 1 percent drop in market share — Philip Morris will lose in excess of \$250 million this year alone."

Philip Morris, which also owns Kraft Food Products and the Miller Beer Co. responded to the demonstrators with a one-page statement, pointing out that for a "very long time it has been funding AIDS research projects through its Corporate Contribution Program.

"Philip Morris has also been supportive of individuals and organizations that make important contributions to its business interests and the communities the company calls home," the company statement said. "Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina has been and continues to be a stalwart supporter of the company's business interests, especially tobacco."

In its statement Philip Morris said that it would continue to fund both AIDS research efforts and Helms.

That, however, only inflamed the passions of the dozen-odd AIDS activists on the sidewalk in front of the company's lobbying offices, who called such dual actions the "moral equivalent" of funding both the Ku Klux Klan and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

To get the word of the boycott out to the public, ACT UP/D.C. has mailed information packets and copies of a poster characterizing Helms as the "Real Marlboro Man" to gay and AIDS groups and gay bars nationwide.

ACT UP chapters nationwide, some of which have already endorsed the action, are being asked to spread the word of the action while gay businesses are being asked to remove Marlboro cigarettes from their vending machines.

Also, despite some confusion at the morning's rally, Petrelis stressed that the boycott would initially only be directed at Marlboro cigarettes, and not at Philip Morris' other cigarettes, food, can-making and alcohol products.

Later the same day, AIDS activists in New York staged a similar demonstration against Philip Morris and, according to the DC activists, engaged in a "phone zap" tying up the company's phone and fax lines in protest of their funding of Helms.

National Briefs

Achtenberg to Receive Liberty Award

New York Mayor David Dinkins will present Irene Diamond, president of the Aaron Diamond Foundation, with a 1990 Lambda Liberty Award in recognition of her support for the civil rights of people with AIDS and her support for AIDS research, including the Foundation's recent \$8 million grant to New York City to establish The Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center. The award will be presented to Mrs. Diamond at a private reception tonight. Lambda will also present Liberty Awards, the organization's highest recognition, to Roberta Achtenberg, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and to Jay Lipner, partner in the New York law firm of Silverstein, Langer, Lipner & Newburgh. Achtenberg will be honored for her efforts to establish legal protections for lesbian and gay families and her fight to end discrimination based on sexual orientation. Lipner will receive the award for his work in expanding access to AIDS treatments for people with AIDS and others threatened by the disease.

Massachusetts' Hate Crimes Bill

On April 27 the Hate Crimes Bill, S.1467, was reported out with unanimous approval by the Public Safety Committee and directed to the Massachusetts Senate. The bill would provide for the collection of statistics and information relative to violence or harassment directed against gays and lesbians, Jewish people, blacks, Hispanics, the disabled and other minorities. The Hate Crimes bill shall provide for additional police training in the reporting of these crimes and in dealing sensitively with its victims. The Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act was signed on April 23. Those pushing for passage of the Massachusetts Hate Crimes Bill stress the importance of legislation being enacted on a state by state basis, both to complement the federal bill and to ensure effective local implementation. "It's important that all states adopt this legislation, so that appropriate responses can be coordinated within each district attorney's office," said Andrew Held of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. Seven states have passed hate crimes legislation, which includes sexual orientation — New Hampshire, Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, Nevada and Oregon. In New England, both Vermont and Connecticut, in addition to Massachusetts, are close to passing hate crimes legislation.

Domestic Partners Bill in Illinois

Legislation that would validate domestic partnership relationships has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly, marking the first attempt at enacting such laws on a statewide basis anywhere in the country. State Sen. William Marovitz and State Rep. Ellis Levin introduced the proposed Domestic Partnership Act. Although no hearings will be scheduled on either bill during the current session, the introduction itself is expected to initiate what should be a comprehensive long-term effort to define such partnership issues in the context of existing laws. Unmarried persons — homosexual or heterosexual — who are living together and sharing household duties would be allowed to "declare" that they live in a domestic partnership. To qualify, a couple must reside in Illinois and must live together. They must be 18 years of age and cannot be related to each other or currently married. Also, they must be competent to enter into a contract and "agree to be responsible for each other's welfare."

—Jeff McCourt, *Windy City Times*

Pipe Bomb Injures 3 at NY Gay Bar

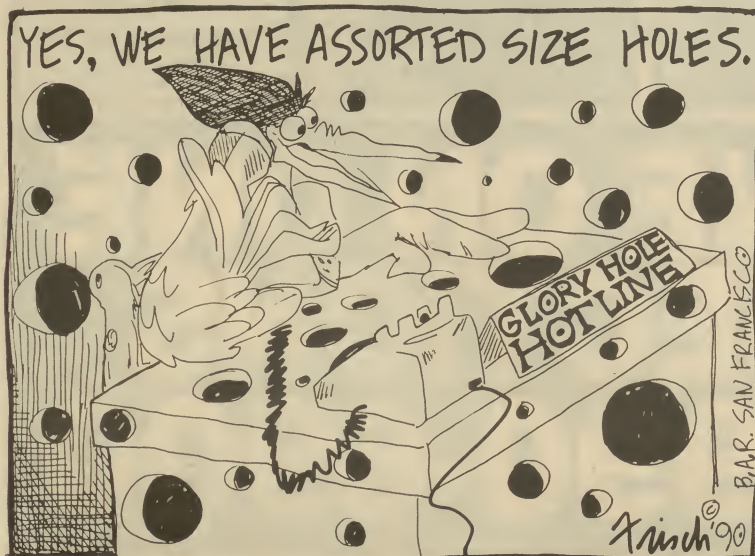
Two patrons and an employee of Uncle Charlie's Downtown, a popular Greenwich Village gay bar, were slightly injured around midnight on April 21 when a pipe bomb exploded inside a heavy metal garbage can in the club. The *New York Times* reports that Mayor David Dinkins called the incident "an anti-homosexual" act, but an Uncle Charlie's spokesman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that police did not believe the incident to be "bias related." Two patrons and an employee suffered slight cuts when the device, M-80 firecrackers stuffed in a capped six-inch length of pipe, exploded. There are no suspects in the incident.

—Dennis Conkin

Civil Rights Bill Gains 3 Backers

The Human Rights Campaign Fund has announced that three additional members of Congress have joined as co-sponsors of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. The three are Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), and U.S. Reps. Gerry Sikorski (D-Minn.) and Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.). "Senator Pell is our 10th co-sponsor in the U.S. Senate, while Reps. Sikorski and Serrano bring our total to 79 in the House," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF's executive director. "All of us must continue to press for additional co-sponsors until discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans is a thing of the past," McFeeley said. Pell, who is facing a tough election challenge this year, is chairman of the Senate subcommittee with jurisdiction over the National Endowment for the Arts. "Senator Pell has been a leading fighter for freedom of artistic expression," McFeeley stated. "Senator Pell's willingness to co-sponsor the bill while facing a challenge is a clear indication that support for an end to discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans can win votes for a politician. For more information on the "Speak Out" program, call (202) 628-4160 or write to HRCF, Field Division, 1012 14th St., N.W., Suite 607, Washington, DC 20005.

Frisch



Guadalajara Crusading Against Gays

by John Hubert

The new city government of Guadalajara, the second city of Mexico with a population of 5 million inhabitants, has joined with the Catholic Church and other such entities to carry out a crusade against gay males and lesbians under the pretext of a "moralization campaign."

Massive raids by the police have centered on newsstands selling "pornographic" magazines and videos as well as on the gay community, both in their gathering places and in the streets.

The new fines passed by the city council for being homosexual are the equivalent of \$40 U.S., a large sum in Mexico. *El Occidental*, a local daily paper, says that "every day the number of homosexuals in the jails are increasing."

The city mayor, Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra, has ordered the closure of all businesses catering to homosexuals on the grounds that "homosexuals are immoral and a danger to the children and youth and to the future of the country."

Particularly damaging has been the closure of Disco Boop's, a popular disco on weekends run by GOHL, the 8-year-old lesbian and gay organization in Guadalajara.

GOHL, which operates the multi-purpose Lesbian & Gay Community Service Center in the same building as Boop's, was chosen last July at the International Lesbian & Gay Association Annual World Conference in Vienna to be the host for the 1991 world conference. This would be the first time that the ILGA Conference had been held in the so called "Third World."

Unfortunately, GOHL's income for all their services come mainly from Disco Boop's, so GOHL not only is in danger of losing the 1991 GOHL Conference, but also it's building and the entire Community Service Center.

Protest letters can be sent to: Lic. Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra, Presidente Municipal de Guadalajara, Palacio Municipal, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico and to: Sr. Guillermo Cosio Vidaurri, Gobernador del Estado de Jalisco, Palacio de Gobierno, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

People who would like their letters translated into Spanish first, can send them to *Paz y Liberacion*, P.O. Box 66450, Houston, Texas 77266, U.S.A., and we'll get them back to you for final processing as quickly as possible. Copies to GOHL, Apartado Postal 1-1693, 44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, will be appreciated. ▼

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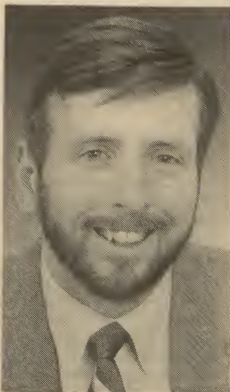
Poor

(Continued from page 11)

According to Boden, welfare recipients will consent because they are held hostage" and are afraid that they will be denied aid or discontinued if they refuse.

Welfare and civil rights activists charge FRED workers investigating suspicious welfare applications with making unannounced home visits, and unauthorized searches of client's personal property. They also say that the DSS practice of questioning neighbors, landlords and other third parties about clients without their permission is a violation of state law.

Clients must meet at least "two elements" of the criteria for referral to the FRED unit. According to John Vera, DSS deputy manager, clients who are suspected of providing "apparently questionable" social security numbers on applications, those who have previously applied for assistance but have been denied or discontinued because of fraud or excessive overpayments, and those who have received previous assistance from three or more counties may have



David Neely

their applications referred to the FRED unit.

GA clients who give verbal or written information that differs from their previous applications or are unable to provide "credible explanations" of how they have supported themselves for six months may be targeted for fraud investigation.

A final criteria is a current client's failure to have provided verifiable or essential information within the last year.

According to Vera, only one

GA application and 101 AFDC cases have been referred to the FRED unit since it began.

Of the AFDC cases, 30 were granted aid outright, 29 cases were continued pending further investigation, 25 — including 20 homeless families were denied, 12 cases where aid was already being provided were discontinued, and six cases were voluntarily withdrawn by applicants; 21 of the 25 denials were overturned. ▼

Freshman

(Continued from page 13)

Religion and race also showed correlations with support for sodomy laws. Freshmen attending both Catholic and non-sectarian private colleges were markedly less supportive of sodomy laws (both at 39.3 percent) than were students at private Protestant (48.8 percent) and public (i.e., less expensive) four-year colleges (47.1 percent). And students attending predominantly black colleges were marginally more supportive of sodomy laws than the average of all students.

Whatever else these latter figures may mean, they suggest that (evangelical?) Pro-

testants may be more disapproving of homosexuality or more willing to legislate their personal morality. The marginally higher figures for black colleges may be a reflection of the influence of a similar Protestant tradition on their freshmen. Troublingly, though, for those who wish to weld all minority groups into one powerful coalition, it appears that the claim that such minority groups should support one another has not been particularly persuasive to black freshmen, at least not those attending black colleges. ▼

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AIDS Activists Meet With Bush's Health Secretary

by Cliff O'Neill

AIDS activists got a clearer idea of the Bush administration's stand on a host of policy matters on the epidemic following an unprecedented meeting April 19 with Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan.

And although they are optimistic that they have now begun a dialogue with the department head, they are still at odds on a variety of issues.

The activists, working under the coalition banner of the National Organizations Responding to AIDS, discussed with Sullivan a wide variety of AIDS care, prevention and research matters with mixed results, according to meeting participants.

"I think we were clear from

the beginning that it was highly unlikely that [Sullivan] was going to say anything of note," said Jean McGuire, co-chair of the NORA coalition. "This meeting was more of a 'get-to-know-you' meeting in terms of players, as opposed to [a] 'Here are the issues we'd like some resolution on' [meeting]."

AIDS activists had been looking forward to the meeting with Sullivan since his appointment as HHS secretary in early 1989. Although they had been promised the meeting since last December, the rendezvous had been postponed several times before the Thursday session.

The 45-minute meeting covered such disparate AIDS issues as the standing policy banning HIV infected foreign

nations from immigrating to or visiting the U.S., AIDS prevention and research efforts and the federal government's commitment to AIDS health care.

On the AIDS immigration issue, a major sticking point between AIDS activists and the White House, Sullivan reportedly expressed the sentiments that the White House has now done all it can to loosen the standing policy.

By broadening the government's waiver policies for travelers with HIV coming to health conferences in the United States, Sullivan stated that it is now up to the Congress to undo the policy if it chooses to do so.

The immigration policy in contention was instituted in 1987 after Congress overwhelmingly approved an amendment from Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) adding AIDS and HIV infections to the list of diseases for which foreigners can be banned entry into the country.

A bill calling on the Immigration and Naturalization Service to determine whether the policy is needed is awaiting action in the U.S. House. The Bush administration has yet to take a stand on the bill.

"Obviously," McGuire said, "we're looking to have the Congress get a clear message from the Administration that they want the [policy reversed]. And I thought it was very unfortunate that [Sullivan] wasn't able to offer us the hope that that would be forthcoming."

Reportedly, Sullivan was disappointed that the activists were not more pleased with what the administration has done so far on the issue.

The other major sore spot with the administration, the White House's insistence that the government should not be in the business of HIV-specific health care financing or delivery improvements, also brought about a lengthy discussion with the secretary.

"We indicated to him that this is not just any other disease," McGuire said. "It's having a disproportionate impact on poverty health structures, it has a geographically disparate impact, and therefore surfaces as a kind of emergency like other disasters that require federal relief."

A bill funneling \$600 million on disaster relief to areas hit particularly hard by AIDS is winding its way through Congress. Two other bills dealing with AIDS and Medicaid and early intervention for HIV infected persons are also pending in the House. The White House has not yet taken a position on any of these bills.

The activists also asked Sullivan to identify for them a person on his staff with whom they could continue their lobbying efforts.

According to McGuire, Sullivan referred them to Under-secretary of Health James Mason, despite activists' repeated insistence that, on some of these issues, they sought leadership from the level of the secretary's office.

On the AIDS prevention front, Sullivan was reportedly more forthcoming, freely offering his help to the activists.

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Health Calendar

FRIDAY

ACA/Dysfunctional Families Retreat: For adult children of alcoholics with counselor Sharon Carberry and Fr. Tom Moran. May 11-13. \$90 single, \$80 double includes lodging, meals, tuition. Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Reservations, call Vera, 325-5614.

HIV+ Potluck: 7:30 p.m. MCC Church, 150 Eureka, SF. 863-4434.

Young Gay Men's Rap Group: For those 23 and under. Meets Fridays, 7-9 p.m. This is a non-therapy rap group conceived and conducted by gay & bisexual young men. MCC Church, 150 Eureka, SF. 863-4434.

Living Well With AIDS/ARC: Support group based on Attitudinal Healing Principles. 1-3 p.m. & 7-9 p.m. Rest Stop, 134 Church, SF. 621-REST.

SATURDAY

Family AIDS Network Support: For family members caring or grieving for a person with AIDS. Meets second and fourth Saturdays, 2-3:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Facilitated by Leslie Heyboer, MFCC. Kairos House, 114 Douglass, SF. 861-0877.

Women's Clinic: Call at 8:30 a.m. for same day appointment. Pap smears, STD, bladder & pregnancy testing. Health care by and for women. Berkeley Free Clinic, 548-2570.

SUNDAY

Afternoon Tea: Come play games & socialize, 2-7 p.m. For PWA/PWARC/PWHIVs. Free. Rest Stop, 134 Church, SF. 621-REST.

Men's Clinic: Free & confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. AIDS/ARC counseling and referrals. 6-8 p.m. Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 644-0425.

MONDAY

Bay Area Youth Positives (BAY+): A support group for adolescents and young adults dealing with HIV, AIDS and ARC. Mondays at 6:30 p.m. ACCEPT, 1287 11th Ave., SF. Call Julie, 861-2500, or Scott, 821-8764.

AIDS Family Project: Ongoing group for teenagers (ages 14-18) who have HIV+ family members. Stacey Shuster, PhD, 626-7000.

Support Group for Older Gay Men (60+): Mondays, 7-9 p.m. 1853 Market St., SF. GLOE, 626-7000.

HIV+ Support Groups—Hayward & Tri-Valley Areas: A variety of emotional support groups for PWAs, HIV+s, friends, families & lovers. A safe place to share your feelings. Meets every Monday and Wednesday. 887-0566.

TUESDAY

Kahlil Bibran—The Man Behind The Prophet: Presented by Rev. Edmond Boles, church co-founder. 7 p.m. Amron Metaphysical Center, 2254 Van Ness, SF. 775-0227.

Free Drop-In Group for Gay Men with Drug/Alcohol Problems: Every Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market, SF. 626-7000.

Lesbian Psychotherapy Group: 5:30-7 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market, SF. Call 626-7000 for appointment.

Asian Gay Men's Support Group: 6:30-8 p.m. The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 548-8283.

WEDNESDAY

AIDS Grief Support Groups: Free and open to the public. Wednesdays, thru June 14, 7-9 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass, SF. Also, Wednesdays, thru May 23, 7-9 p.m. Hospice By The Bay, 1550 Sutter, 3rd floor, SF. Adv. registration required, 673-2020.

AA Mean Streets Group: Wednesdays, 8 p.m., at the Gay Rescue Mission, 1080 Folsom near 7th St., SF.

Finding Love All Minds United (FLAME): Healing meditation at 6:30 p.m.; fellowship at 7:30 p.m. 1838 15th St./Ramona, SF. 566-4122.

AIDS/HIV Drop-In Group for Asians/Pacific Islanders: Weekly, 6-7:30 p.m., for information, support and referral. Conducted in English, Cantonese and Mandarin. Free. Asian AIDS Project, 300 4th St., Suite 401, SF.

Crack Rap: Weekly, 9-10 a.m., with peer counselor Lawrence Miller. Crack detox also available. Tenderloin Self-Help Center, 191 Golden Gate Ave., SF. 554-0518.

Care Partners Support Group: For those caring for people with AIDS or other life threatening illnesses. 7:30-9 p.m. MCC Church, 150 Eureka, SF. 861-4434.

THURSDAY

Insurance/Employee Benefits Clinic: 6:15, 7 & 7:45 p.m. every Thursday. Free 45 min. private session with an attorney on benefits, COBRA and insurance problems. AIDS Legal Referral Panel, 25 Hickory/Van Ness, SF. 864-8186.

ARC Drop-in Group for PWAs: Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Support, info, stress. Health Center 1, 3850 17th St./Noe, Rm. 201, SF. 626-7000.

HIV+ Drop-in Group for Men and Women Testing Positive: Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. at Operation Concern, 1853 Market, SF. 626-7000.

SF AIDS Alternative Healing Project: A 12-week comprehensive treatment program begins May 21. Free introductory meetings May 10 & 15, 8-9 p.m. Insurance accepted. Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 1748 Market/Valencia, SF. 861-4964.

AIDS and Health Insurance

by Michael C. Botkin

Last week a panel of AIDS insurance and benefits workers and activists spoke at a "Living With HIV" forum, moderated by the author of this column. In retrospect, the event was a good mix of expert opinion and savvy consumer inquiry. Certain issues were raised repeatedly and eventually debated in fairly fine detail.

The most frequently asked questions dealt with COBRA benefits in all their complicated glory, pre-existing conditions and how to get them insured, and how to deal with "medical disclosure."

The experts answering the questions were Chris Alexander of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Dan Chesir of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Tom Storey of AIDS Benefits Counselors and Carl Heimann, an insurance broker.

COBRA

Most people get their health insurance from a group policy on their job. This means that if you lose your job, you also lose your insurance. And if you have AIDS, it may be impossible for you to get new insurance; at the very least there will be a delay or uncovered period of several months — or maybe years.

The COBRA law was passed in an attempt to fill this gap. It is a compromise between providing real and permanent health care for people who lose their jobs, and the desire of the insurance industry to dump poor risks.

Basically it is a federal law that requires insurers to offer coverage to workers who leave their jobs.

The ex-worker takes over payment of the premiums, which were previously paid for by the boss, but the insurers can't charge you more than 102 percent of what they charged the employer. The coverage only extends for 18 months, and businesses that employ less than 20 people are exempt.

After 18 months the insurer must offer you the option of "conversion," or getting an individual policy to replace your COBRA'd group policy.

Alas, the federal government did not make any limitations on what the insurers could charge for these policies, and they tend to cost a fortune and yield pitiful benefits. They are rarely worth the cost.

Another Gap-Trap

There is another COBRA gap-trap for HIVers, the 11-month period between when COBRA ends and Medicare kicks in. This gap has been somewhat filled by yet another bill, the COBRA extension.

If you leave work because you are disabled (as defined by the Social Security Administration — and this includes AIDS and most ARC diagnoses), you are entitled to an additional 11 months of COBRA coverage, which tides you over until you become eligible for Medicare — 29 months after disability.

This bill does NOT cover you if you become disabled

AFTER you leave your job.

Pre-Existing Conditions

Most insurance policies have a list of exclusions for "pre-existing conditions," or medical problems that you had before they took you on. Anything that you paid money to have treated is a Pre-X (see "medical disclosure" below), and typically insurers refuse to cover them for at least the first year of the new policy.

What can HIVers do? First of all, the panel unanimously warned people to be careful about changing jobs. If you do change jobs, you can COBRA the policy from your old job to cover HIV care until the coverage from the new policy kicks in.

The surprisingly good news was that most HMOs don't bother excluding pre-existing conditions. Although the audience had trouble believing it, this was the consensus of the panel.

Because of the way HMOs are set up, screening out HIVers by diagnosis just isn't workable. This is good news for many HIVers who assume

ed that they were forever uninsurable.

On the other hand, it is typically only really large concerns that offer HMOs.

For many healthier HIVers, the Pre-X isn't as dangerous. You have plenty of time to get a policy and wait out the Pre-X exclusion period. If you are an early stage, asymptomatic HIVer, now might be a good time to get private life and disability insurance. These types of insurance policies are fairly easy to get, and you won't be asked any compromising questions as long as you don't get too greedy. After two years most policies become essentially uncontrollable.

Medical Disclosure

When an audience member, in the course of his question, mentioned getting T-cell tests, a sigh rose from the panel, and somebody muttered, "the horse is out of the stable." "Medical disclosure" occurs when some concrete evidence of HIV goes into your doctor's file.

Prior to medical disclosure a person is still fairly in-

surable. Once HIV is documented it becomes a Pre-X as well as a warning to insurance under-writers that you are a "high-risk" client.

Also, if you work for a "small" employer, medical disclosure can drive up the premiums for you, your boss and your co-workers.

There is little that can be done about this, and it puts the HIVer in an awkward situation. Your boss and/or co-workers may blame you for the rate increase and encourage you to leave work — even though this means abandoning you to a totally insurance-free condition.

They can't quite fire you — that would be discrimination on the basis of your handicap — but no one is required to insure you or your co-workers, either. They may end up with the "Unjust Desserts" choice (named after the popular bakery shunned by insurers because they employ HIVers) — dump your HIVers or pay more for insurance.

The experts recommend making sure that you and your doctor agree as to what goes into your file and when. I might add that this entirely practical need to conceal info amounts to being driven into

the closet.

The Changing Scene

Insurers are getting wise to AIDS, and this is mostly bad news for HIVers. Some companies set a \$5,000 lifetime limit on coverage for HIV care (!). Many look for any opportunity to dump a high-risk client, or to "red-line" (i.e. refuse to insure) any "suspect" profession, like dancers, artists or hair stylists.

On the positive side, Chris Alexander reports a fair amount of success in getting insurers to pay for experimental treatments that haven't been officially approved IF there is good mainstream scientific data to back it up (e.g. early AZT).

If you can make a good case that it will save them money, many insurers will listen.

There is a certain amount individuals can do about keeping insurance and getting benefits. Never, ever miss or be late on a payment for a private policy. Find out about your benefits and carefully read the fine print of any new policies you consider. Be careful about your medical "paper trail," and consider consulting one of the organizations represented on the panel cited above.

(Continued on page 23)

BETA

Bulletin of
Experimental
Treatments for
AIDS

A publication of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

CONTENTS

NEW ISSUE

- Management of Early HIV Disease
- Recommendations on AZT use in Early HIV Disease
- ddI Update: The First 100 Days of Expanded Access
- Kaposi's Sarcoma: An Interview with Marcus Conant, MD
- Notes on Research and Care
 - Oral Alpha Interferon — *immune booster*
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DEATHS

Dr. Russell E. Pemberton Jan. 17, 1944-April 23, 1990

Dr. Russell E. Pemberton, 46, an anesthesiologist who formerly practiced at Merritt Hospital in Oakland, died April 23 at Ralph K. Davies Medical Center from complications related to AIDS.

A 15-year resident of San Francisco, Russell was born in Adelaide, South Australia. He held a bachelor of science degree in microbiology from Adelaide University, a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge in England and a doctor of medicine degree from the University of California at San Francisco. He retired as an anesthesiologist at Merritt in 1988.

Russell was a kind and compassionate man who cared deeply for his patients, family, friends and his lover of 10 years, Michael Matthews. He supported Michael throughout a two-year illness until Michael's death in March. Russell also served as a co-leader of a Persons With AIDS support group at Grace Cathedral.

Russell is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Jean Bail of Port Germain, South Australia and Mrs. Barbara Goldsmith of Blackwood, South Australia; and by brother, Graham, of Morley, Western Australia.

A memorial service is scheduled for him at 4 p.m., Monday, May 7, at Grace Cathedral.

Hal Slate 1940-1990

Our friend Hal died April 8 of AIDS, after playing a central role in some of San Francisco's most exciting recent history.

He moved here to manage the Surf chain of theatres under Mel Novakoff. He was in charge of the celebrated renovation of the Castro Theater. He then went on to open the Cauldron, which as its former patrons know, was both the most sexually experimental and friendliest of sex clubs of the time.

When AIDS came on the scene, Hal closed the Cauldron, well ahead of the mandatory closings that followed. Hal then became a marriage, family and child counsellor, specializing in the S&M lifestyle and mid-life issues.

He will be fondly remembered by his many former clients as well as his friends in San Francisco and Oakland and his sister, Sunny, in Canada. ▽

Daniel L. Boyles May 20, 1943-April 17, 1990

On April 17, Dan passed peacefully and with dignity from us at our home in San Francisco, comforted by his friends and his lover of seven years, Bart Lillie.

The Boyles family was one of the pioneer families of Ohio, settling there in the late 1700s. Dan was born and raised in Columbus and spent two years in Houston, Texas before moving to San Francisco in 1979. He is survived by two brothers and one sister in Ohio.

Dan had a special fondness for classic automobiles, German food, slapstick comedy and '50s music. His positive approach to life and his courage and uncompromising attitude during his two-year struggle with AIDS were an inspiration to all of us. We are all a better people to have had him touch our lives with his love — I will miss you, dear friend, and think of you always.

Dan was cremated and his ashes scattered in San Francisco Bay.

A special thanks to Pacific Presbyterian Hospital for their care and thoughtfulness during his final weeks.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Dan Boyles Memorial Fund, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103. ▽

Rocco "Ron" Brateman Nov. 15, 1942-March 21, 1990

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., Rocco has been a longtime resident of San Francisco.

Rocco passed away after nearly five years of courageous struggle with AIDS. He will be missed by his many friends and extended families who will always remember "Da Roc" as a loving and generous person.

Rocco is survived by his partner in life, Tommy Szezo of Vancouver. Funeral and graveside services were held at the Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery in Kaneohe, Oahu on April 23.

A memorial service will be held at the Swedenborgian Church at 2107 Lyon St. in San Francisco on May 9 at 7 p.m. ▽

Thomas A. "Tony" Sloan July 23, 1951-April 16, 1990

As a friend and a person, Tony was always involved with life. Every experience was a new adventure for him. He enjoyed a varied professional career from beautician to L.V. nursing. Through most of the AIDS crisis, he lovingly cared for others.

His own struggle with AIDS began more than two years ago. He still waged war against AIDS with a clear mind to the end. In his last days, weak from the battle, the City of Angeles Hospice provided the loving care needed for him to pass peacefully to the next life and to the great "DISCO" in the sky.

Special thanks and admiration must be given to the staff of the Hospice and to Ed Castillo and Dick Wright. His brother Nick was always there to handle and help in Tony's requests.

Tony is survived by his mother Helen, brother Butch in Maryland, sister Lynn in Pennsylvania, brothers Nick in San Jose and Richard in Washington, DC.

A celebration of life was held April 20.

"Know Ye Were Always Loved" Until we meet in the "DISCO" next time. ▽

Richard Voisard March 17, 1957-March 21, 1990

Rick Voisard passed on at his parent's home in Rockhill, S.C. on March 21. He was cremated in Rockhill and his family plans to spread his ashes from the Golden Gate Bridge in May. His friends will hold a remembrance on Sunday, May 6 at 4 p.m. in the Rose Garden of Golden Gate Park. Call (415) 648-8290 or 558-9022 for more information. Rick, we miss you. ▽

Dorothy Ann Patterson Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) co-founder Dorothy Ann Patterson died March 24 in Anchorage, Alaska. She was 63.

Ms. Patterson, mother of four children, moved to California briefly in her early 20s before settling and raising her three daughters and one son in Seattle.

In 1975 she moved to Alaska for a new adventure and secured employment within the once-booming Alaskan oil industry.

In 1978, after visiting her son in San Francisco, she became aware that he was gay. On her return to Anchorage, she bravely, with support of other concerned parents, formed P-FLAG.

She remained active while her health permitted. In her later years, Mom spoke up for the victims of AIDS, trying to bring hope and cheer to her own close friend, John. He preceded her in death. Mom died peacefully from effects of emphysema in March.

Ms. Patterson requested that memorial contributions be directed to Alaska AIDS Assistance Association, 417 West 8th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501. I love you Mom — Kev. ▽

Michael C. Brumfield Nov. 25, 1948-April 19, 1990

Michael passed into God's everlasting arms on April 19. He is survived by his spouse of 15 years, the Rev. Ronald T. Pannell. Michael's natural family, whom he loved very much, includes his father and stepmother, William and Georgia.

Brumfield; his mother, Ileen Reeves; his sisters Patricia Puckett and P.J. Merlock; and his brother, Buzzy, all of Kentucky.

Michael never lost the faith during his long battle with AIDS. He cherished his "city," San Francisco, where he was active in the struggle for lesbian and gay rights.

Michael was Ronald's loving and most loyal and active supporter during their ministries in Metropolitan Community Churches in New Orleans and Baltimore.

Michael was a member of the Board of Directors of Golden Gate MCC in San Francisco.

Michael's love and sense of responsibility to God and the Church never diminished during his illness. From his hospital bed, he continued working on church business up to the time he fell into a final sleep.

The celebration of Michael's life will be on Sunday, May 13, 7 p.m. at Golden Gate MCC, 48 Belcher Street. Offerings in Michael's name may be made to the Church Building Fund of which he was the chairman. ▽

Keith Alan Permenter Sept. 6, 1956-April 17, 1990

Keith's intuition brought him to San Francisco in 1977. He worked at Wells Fargo, Smith & Kettlewell Eye Institute and a local law firm, but his calling in life was to create. Keith accomplished much as an artist in his lifetime. His paintings, sculptures and sketches reflected his non-conforming rebellious spirit.

He experienced some unhappiness in this and past lives which he was able to recognize, accept and, to a great degree, change. Through Buddhism, Keith found a way to focus his spiritual nature. He was proud of the progress he made through its teachings and discipline, and found that it allowed him to experience a deeper sense of well-being as it propelled him toward a higher plane.

Friends remember Keith's home as a playhouse filled with toys and artifacts that helped him to keep the child inside alive. They also remember him dancing all night at South of Market discos, his own private costume parties and laying in his lounge chair with rum and coke in hand.

Friend, lover, artist and confidante, Keith passed away in the arms of his loving mother after a long battle with Kaposi's sarcoma and Tuberculosis. He is survived by his mother, Sonya, step father, Norman Cranford, his step-sisters Norma Breeding and Cheryl Matthews and his loving dog, Cerone — all of Little Rock, Ark.

Keith found his spiritual family in San Francisco and is waiting for us to join him at his next party in his new playhouse. ▽

Jim Kwiecinski Aug. 29, 1930-April 21, 1990

Jim passed peacefully from this life to a better place on April 21 of complications due to HIV infection.

At his side was his life companion of 20 years, Jack Rabbitt and his sister Jeri.

As he stated to his friends, he had a full life and has no regrets about his early departure. His spicy and dry sense of humor will be remembered by those who knew and loved him dearly.

A memorial get-together is planned for May 20. Call John at 826-4176 for details. ▽

P.G. 1944-1990

The love of my life passed away in San Francisco the other day. Although his illness was complex and anguishing, he managed to die as he had lived — with honor, pride and style.

His personal and professional life were very private and because of the possible repercussions to those near and dear to him, he preferred to remain nameless.

He was a rare man, far ahead of his time. A talented artist, proud father, brilliant negotiator, builder, chef and good friend.

AIDS has taken away many wonderful people. This man's loss is all our loss as his charitable concerns affected far more than those he knew.

Due to the political and social fallout of AIDS our family remains anonymous, and my love will not be counted among the familiar faces of our community paper obituaries. He was a member of our community and my heart is truly broken by his passing.

My thanks to the Davies Medical staff for your heartfelt inexpressible efforts and Marchan Raub of Home Care. ▽

David de Schweinitz May 25, 1944-April 6, 1990

David is well-remembered for his enduring spirit, warm smile and love for natural beauty as well as the ordered beauty of theatre and art, to which his contributions were many. To the very end of his life, he was surrounded by many friends and family to whom his love was generously given.

David fought against AIDS with more than his life, spending much of the last two years as a dedicated volunteer with the People With AIDS Coalition of Tucson for Life and the Tucson AIDS Project. He often spoke to groups of young people about the facts and dangers of AIDS.

"I have just passed from the most magnificent planet in my known universe. Although she is ill, she is still the most beautiful place any person can possibly imagine. So, imagine my delight as I am now discovering in these moments in the next plane of existence, that the beauty is more profound, the peace much more peaceful.

"I imagine the opportunities to reach down sometime in the future and help the planet earth, will hopefully come to pass. Earth will stand strong, heal itself, and not die.

"So join me in the fashion of our ancient Buddhist and Sanskrit neighbors and give a SHOUT OF JOY, for it is the SHOUT OF JOY that will boost me higher. I have fallen in love with so many people in the past several years that your hearts and my heart have joined in this wonderful, loving friendship. I am forever with you. Love, David." (Dictated to his Mother, 3/6/90).

Richard Edmonds Jan. 15, 1944-April 22, 1990

Rick left this world on Earth Day 1990. He was a native Californian. Rich worked on Gay Games I and II. His attention to detail will be missed. He also was a former I.G.B.O. representative.

Rich had his own company — Restorations, Ltd. Taking pride to restore old Victorians, his loves were music, dancing at the Trocadero, and antiques.

He is survived by his sister, Mary Ann, brother, Ed, and partner, Rene.

He will be missed by all his friends. Private funeral services were held in Petaluma. Memorial donations in his name could be sent to the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Many thanks to the volunteers and staff at Coming Home Hospice on Diamond Street. ▽

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Brian Bliss

Sept. 25, 1954-April 28, 1990

Born in Montana, Brian was raised in Gilroy and graduated from Gavilan College to become a lifelong professional musician and engineer. A resident of San Francisco since 1977, Brian wrote the music for the official Gay Olympics (now Gay Games) Anthem and devised the orchestrations for the original production of Men Behind Bars. Since 1984, Brian worked at Dolby Laboratories, while composing music in the evenings; his first solo CD was released in March.

Those who loved him include his mother and father, Iris and Walt of Grass Valley; his brother Dave of Mountain View and his sister Nancy of Washington state; his partner Jerry Hemstock; Bob Ledoux, with whom he shared a Noe Valley home for eleven years; and many devoted friends.

A gathering of family and friends in memory of Brian will be held the third weekend of May; for information, call 824-7898 or 864-0699. Donations may be made to Project Inform or to the Brian Bliss Scholarship Fund at Gavilan College.

John Belmonte

April 4, 1957-April 20, 1990

John Belmonte passed away suddenly at home in San Francisco on April 20. He was 33. The cause of death still has not been determined.

John was a native of Massachusetts and had moved to San Francisco in

December of 1985. Shortly thereafter he met his lover, Michael. John's warm, generous nature, disarming smile and child-like enthusiasm soon won him many friends in the Bay Area.

John was an avid photographer who loved the outdoors. He often enjoyed spending a quiet day in the country or flying his kite at the beach. At home, he spent many hours nurturing the garden he loved.

In addition to his lover and many friends, John is survived by his parents, a brother and two sisters. Memorial services were to be held in his hometown of Shrewsbury, Mass.

Friends are invited to attend a gathering in celebration of John's life on Saturday, May 19 in San Francisco. For additional information call (415) 566-6757.

Goodbye Mr. B. I love you and I miss you so very much.

David Lynn Comte

Nov. 11, 1946-April 20, 1990

Just a few months short of his 44th birthday and after several years fighting AIDS, David went home peacefully to the Lord at Coming Home Hospice on April 20. Earlier this year, David had been visited by his family and friends from Texas, Florida and Los Angeles. They were able to say goodbye and to express their mutual love for each other.

A man of faith who frequently had mystical experiences, David often spoke of the "job" each one of us had to do in his or her life journey. He identified his own job as pointing out the way that recognized God as a part of life experience, even a life ravaged by the effects of AIDS. Once when asked what he'd like stated in his obituary, David said, "Say that he always wanted to walk on water and in the end, he did."

He always tried to maintain a cheerful mien and although sometimes his humor could be a bit caustic, he was never hurtful. David wanted to be, beneficial to others and much of what he did reflected that desire. How successful he was in the venture can only be known by those who knew and loved him and experienced his love. He and his family were very grateful to the entire staff and volunteers of Coming Home Hospice and their loving care and concern.

A memorial mass was celebrated for David on Saturday, April 28 at the Jesuit Community Chapel at USF. Other memorials will be held in Texas and Florida where his ashes will be delivered to his sister for suitable interment.

Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, Bay Area Reporter has been forced to change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

Write name of person on back of photo. If you include an envelope to have the photo returned, please write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Reagan sat on his hands and did nothing about AIDS (whatever sappy statements he makes on behalf of "innocent victims" now), a policy that has already cost tens of thousands of lives.

The moral is that NOT regulating ends up costing a lot more in the long run. If the insurers are allowed to dump responsibility for health care, the public will eventually end up picking up the tab.

"Interior designer Richard Tam died ...after a long illness. He was 49. Hailed as a brilliant couturier before he was out of his teens, Mr. Tam's talent for creating memorable women's clothes, interiors and landscape designs made him a favorite of high society on both sides of the Atlantic." (SF Chronicle, April 26).

A number of gay men of color have died lately of AIDS, without any mention of either their sexuality or the cause of death appearing in the obits. Is there an unspoken rule in the mainstream media that only white men can be identified as gay, or dead from AIDS?

Fraternity

(Continued from page 4)

er following the Delta Lambda news conference Monday. "It has become really a debate within the gay/lesbian/bisexual community on campus even within the past week. And that's where we're staring at. There's a difference between voicing your concerns like this and burning their house down. I'm not going to try to prevent them from existing."

Gays Go Greek

Founded in 1986, Delta Lambda Phi was first formed in Washington, D.C., as a private fraternity unaffiliated with a college or university. But it wasn't until 1988 that the first chapter was formally recognized at a university campus, UCLA. That proved to be a watershed event for Delta Lambda, and since then there have been 13 more chapters formed across the country in places as diverse as Temple University in Philadelphia, Florida State University at Tallahassee and the State University of New York at Stonybrook.

But California has been the most fertile soil for the blossoming Greeks. In addition to the UCLA, SF State, SJS and UC-Berkeley chapters, there are also recognized Delta Lambdas at UC-San Diego and California State University at Sacramento.

There are also students working on forming groups that may be ready to apply for formal campus recognition later this fall at UC-Santa Cruz, UC-Santa Barbara and even in the heart of Dannemeyer-land at CSU-Fullerton.

Bill Collins, who started up CSU-Sacramento's chapter last year, says Delta Lambda can serve several functions on campus, from providing a supportive environment that's less "transient" than gay bars, to forming a network that can be socially and even economically useful for years to come.

"If I'm in some new city," he told the Bay Area Reporter last

year, "and looking for a job or an introduction to the social scene, contacting a brother there can help a great deal."

Others see it as a way for younger gays to begin dealing with their sexual orientation as adults on campus.

Rusty Paiyou, who began the San Jose State chapter, said, "They see it as a method of coming out — I'm sure of it — which is fine. Fraternities in general are there to help you get where you want to go in life."

And some see Delta Lambda as a more moderate, mainstream way of being openly gay on campus without joining political campus gay organizations.

Bob Dickenson, a Delta Lambda member at UCLA's chapter, said he didn't "think much of the gay groups on campus because of their politics," which he said didn't interest him.

"I wanted to be able to socialize with other people like me on campus," Dickenson said, "but I'm just not into the gay politics thing. I wanted to have a positive gay social experience at college, but I'm too conservative for most gay groups, though I'm hardly a Republican. Delta Lambda is a perfect solution for men like me."

Balancing Act

To date none of the fraternity's campus-affiliated chapters have gotten the treasured recognition from the Inter-Fraternity Council, the organization that oversees the Greek fraternities at the nation's colleges and universities.

And Delta Lambda's balancing act of striving for mainstream acceptance while at the same time being somewhat shunned by some of their Inter-Fraternity Council colleagues because of the fraternity's appeal to gays puts it in a somewhat awkward position.

Not only are some UC-Berkeley gay students openly hostile to the new fraternity on campus, Delta Lambda at CSU-Sacramento also raised hackles among some activists when the fraternity, barely

three months old, was voted a local community award last year, causing one Sacramento activist in *The Latest Issue* at the time to question, "Who are these people?" Elizabeth Swanson wrote, "When the formation of a fraternity is judged to be more important than major contributions to AIDS fundraising and information efforts, priorities seem to be askew."

With such a moderate, traditional approach to campus life, what may be more surprising than the few skirmishes the fraternity has had with gay activists so far is Delta Lambda's failure to attract chapters at the nation's most establishment universities.

The fraternity has failed to attract much student interest at any of the Ivy League universities — Princeton, Yale, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, etc., and locally there are no signs of a Delta Lambda forming at Stanford University either.

One gay Stanford student, who belongs to a campus Greek group and who did not want to be identified, said, "Look, one of the strongest draws of a fraternity, aside from the fun you can have during college, is the long-term network you establish with other fraternity members around the country.

"And if you're going after a top-level job — whether it's at Xerox or in the [United States] Justice Department — belonging to a gay fraternity isn't going to get you very far. Being able to have gay fraternities on campus doesn't change the corporate or political world in the least."

The issue UC-Berkeley students like Kernell and Carlton have raised on campus is whether gays and lesbians should be actively seeking to ensconce themselves in corporate, political or institutional environments where being gay is a mark against them.

The issue, as Carlton put it is, "They (Delta Lambda Phi) are looking for a piece of the pie; I want to change the whole system. Maybe we just shouldn't be eating pie at all!"

HIV

(Continued from page 21)

However, the real solution is ultimately political. The COBRA extension bill will do more to save lives than hundreds of hours of careful, individual planning.

HIVers need to make common cause with everyone who suffers because of our country's inadequate health-care system, and fight for responsible policies.

Why should insurers be allowed to dump the people who need help the most? Why should they be allowed to push responsibility for denying health care for PWAs onto the bosses and workers of small companies?

Conservatives decry any mention of "government regulation." But it was their guru of deregulation, Ronald Reagan, who paved the way for the outrageously costly savings and loan scandals, expensive eco-disasters like the Exxon Valdez spill, and the shameless looting at HUD.

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Bay Area Reporter Greater Bay News

East Bay Gay Demos Back Riles

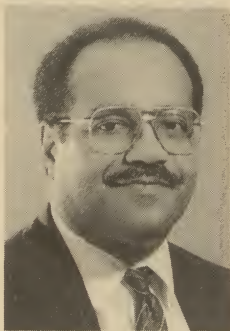
At a meeting attended by most of the major candidates for Oakland municipal and Alameda County offices, the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club on April 12 endorsed Wilson Riles, Jr., for mayor of Oakland.

Riles, son of the former state superintendent of Public Instruction and a veteran member of the City Council, is seen as one of the three leading contenders in the June mayoral primary, along with state Assembly member Elihu Harris and incumbent Mayor Lionel Wilson.

If, as expected, no candidate receives a majority of votes in the primary, the two top vote-getters will meet in a November runoff.

Riles's support within the EBL/GDC was seen to stem from many years of consistent support for gay and lesbian issues at the local level, including leadership in securing Oakland's non-discrimination ordinances on the basis of sexual orientation and HIV status.

Harris, who came in second to Riles in club balloting, also has a history of working with the EBL/GDC.



Wilson Riles Jr.

In other areas, incumbent Mary Moore and newcomer Nate Miley were endorsed in their bids for election to the Oakland City Council. For Oakland's three open school board seats, the club endorsed Jean Quan, Toni Cook and Wilma Chan.

All Democratic incumbents seeking re-election to other statewide constitutional office were endorsed.

The next meeting of the EBL/GDC will focus on state and local ballot measures. Speakers on the more interesting of the propositions have been invited to appear. The meeting, which is open to all, will be held at 7 p.m., May 3 at the Rockridge Women's Club, 6065 Chabot Road (off College Avenue), Oakland. For more information, contact Allan Shore at 232-7555. ▼

Controversial Ex-Priest Fires Up South Bay Audience

by Keith Clark

"The man is electrifying; he's simply electrifying," a young white woman at Santa Clara University's Mayer Theater April 24 said of one of the Catholic Church's most controversial ex-priests, the Rev. George August Stallings Jr.

It is, of course, Stallings, the man that has generated the bulk of the controversy that's swirled around him since July 1989 when he established the Imani Temple in Washington, D.C., claiming the the Archdiocese and the Catholic Church were riddled with racism.

The Archdiocese responded by suspending Stallings, prohibiting him from celebrating Mass, and finally by excommunicating him.

At the height of the religious controversy, the *Washington Post* published a lengthy front-page story last September, claiming that in 1977 an unidentified former altar boy at Stallings' parish had had sex with the priest over a period of several months.

More recently, on April 29, the *Post* published another piece on Stallings in which Derek Brown, 25, said that he and Stallings were lovers at the time the priest added Brown to the church payroll as an assistant.

The *Washington Post* report also raised questions as to whether Stallings used funds from the collection plate to finance the renovation of his home.

Stallings has repeatedly refused to discuss the issue and has dismissed the story as "scurrilous, baseless and without any merit." He has also made himself almost entirely inaccessible to jour-

nalists whom he describes as "amoral nihilists" concerned only with sensationalism.

At Tuesday night's enthusiastic and packed gathering at Santa Clara University, Stallings was indeed electrifying as he alternated easily between addressing the audience of some 500 people as a simple Catholic priest, a fire-and-brimstone evangelist and a political visionary bent on freeing minorities of white, mainstream domination.

'Jesus was a man of color, not a white man with blue eyes. Jesus was an African Jew.'

"We may have come over on different ships," the combined priest-evangelist-politician told the audience, "but we're in the same boat now." To back up his statement, Stallings announced that his dissident African American Catholic Church, which already has parishes in Washington, Norfolk, Va., and Philadelphia, will be adding a Hispanic Catholic parish sometime next year in a location not yet settled on.

Part of Stallings' presentation at SCU included a videotape of a recent Sunday Mass at Imani Temple that might unnerve Catholic purists but that clearly excited the predominantly black audience Tuesday night.

Priests and cantors — as well as many of the church flock — were decked out in brilliant colors, and many

wore bold traditional African prints and headgear. Stallings himself wore a flowing white surplice trimmed with a blazing orange, green and black African print.

The cantor, sporting a rich head of dreadlocks, swayed as chanting in Ashanti swept through the parishioners and a traditional African percussion ensemble periodically exploded with the sounds of talking drums, shake-rattles and bells to signify the presence of God at the Mass.

Throughout the Mass, a gospel choir shared the altar and periodically broke into songs more familiar in black evangelical churches. At one point an exuberant Stallings began dancing at the altar while other priests and congregants swayed and clapped.

After the video, Stallings told the audience that Christianity was not a "white man's religion" and that racial minorities had to reclaim their role in it.

"It did not originate in Rome. The last time I looked at a map, Egypt was still in Africa. Jesus was a man of color, not a white man with blue eyes. Jesus was an African Jew. We can no longer afford to worship white gods in black houses. We need to worship a God that walks like us and talks like us."

Stallings, although he refused to discuss the *Washington Post* reports, did say the story had not hurt his African-American Catholic Church.

The day the first *Washington Post* story broke, some 50 members of Imani Temple picketed outside a church where Cardinal James Hickey was presiding over Mass. One Stallings supporter carried a large placard

(Continued on page 26)

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Peninsula School to Present AIDS Play Despite Flap

by Keith Clark

Despite a last minute attempt by a small group of local parents, the Mountain View-Los Altos Unified School Board voted 4-1 to allow an educational play concerning AIDS to be performed for students at the district's two high schools.

The play *Secrets* drew opposition by a small group of parents in the area led by Michael Hoffman of Mountain View, who claimed the play focused on using condoms instead of promoting abstinence as a way of avoiding the disease.

Hoffman told the board on April 16 that the play gives teens "a false sense of security" about condom reliability and

that "being gay is OK."

Hoffman challenged both assertions.

"The majority of teens are not sexually active," Hoffman told the board, "and this [play] apparently is directed at those who are."

Hoffman also said the school should not promote "gay propaganda," which he claimed is contained in the play.

Despite Hoffman's claim, most polls indicate the majority of teen-agers are sexually active by the age of 15.

Secrets is produced by the Kaiser Permanente-funded Education Theater Program of Oakland, which puts on theater productions aimed at addressing issues concerning young people.

Secrets is designed to teach teens about how AIDS is transmitted and how it can be avoided. The play includes one gay character who talks about his own health concerns.

In arguing against the parents' request to cancel the play's scheduled performances, director of curriculum and instruction Robert Madgic told the board, "Parents have the right to preview [a video of the play] and exclude their children from attending if they want. Apparently they (the opponents) are intent on stopping everyone from seeing it rather than just their own kids."

Secrets is scheduled for April 27 at Mountain View High and for May 9 at Los Altos High School. ▼

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Modesto Bows to Sheldon, Rejects Hate-Crimes Law

by Keith Clark

Less than 24 hours after President Bush signed the national Hate Crimes Statistics Act some half-dozen right-wing fundamentalists convinced the Modesto City Council to reject a hate-crimes ordinance because it included sexual orientation as one of the minority groups under its jurisdiction.

The fundamentalists were led by Lou Sheldon of the extremist Anaheim-based Traditional Values Coalition

Last November, following a racially motivated cross-burning incident, the city's Human Rights Commission decided to propose that Modesto adopt a hate-crimes ordinance similar to other local laws around the state to increase criminal and civil penalties for hate-motivated crimes based on race, religion, ethnic background, political affiliation, sex or sexual orientation.

On April 24 the proposed new ordinance came up for a hearing before the Modesto City Council only to be met by local fundamentalist opposition organized and led by Sheldon.

Sheldon, an alleged heterosexual, told council members that the Supreme Court has ruled that "homosexuality and the act of sodomy is not constitutionally protected" and therefore should not be included in the proposed legislation covering hate crimes.



Lou Sheldon

John Doornenbal, who said he was a member of a local evangelical church which he refused to identify, also told the council the proposed hate-crimes law would "encourage radical homosexual activism and recruiting by homosexuals among children."

Sheldon, who said he had flown in to Modesto that day from Sacramento after local fundamentalists alerted him that the ordinance was coming up before the city council, told the council that homosexuality is a choice, "like smoking cigarettes," and didn't deserve legal protections.

"What we're opposed to is moving behavior-based lifestyles to a minority status," he said.

The council voted to remove most of the Human Rights Commission's policies from the new ordinance, leaving it only with the job of preparing

an information brochure on the rights of the victims of hate-based crimes.

The brochure specifically is not to include any references to homosexuality HRC Chairwoman Barbie Boyette told the *Bay Area Reporter* and must be reviewed by the City Council before it can be released.

"We didn't want this HRC proposal to turn into an anti-gay debate," Boyette said.

She said she still felt the inclusion of gays in the original proposal was justified because of the increasing number of gay-bashing incidents being reported in the area, particularly in local parks where gays frequently cruise.

No one from the city's gay and lesbian community attended the City Council meeting in support of the proposal.

HRC member Quincy Hamilton, the principal author of the proposal, said he was "extremely disappointed" in Sheldon's and the local fundamentalists' attitude on including homosexuality in the hate-crimes proposal.

"I'm, of course, extremely disappointed in their attitude that's destroyed a badly needed ordinance over one, limited issue. God knows, if people who smoke cigarettes were being beaten up in our parks, whether you agree with smoking or not, we'd still want to protect them from violence."



Laurie McBride

Activist McBride Nominated to LIFE Lobby Director's Post

by Keith Clark

The Sacramento-based Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality's executive committee has recommended that San Francisco activist Laurie McBride be the organization's director.

McBride, who is co-chair of the San Francisco-based Mobilization Against AIDS and political action chair of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, also served for two years as president of the Horizons Foundation (formerly the GGBA Foundation).

Don Disler, LIFE Lobby's Northern California co-chair, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the executive committee had decided to recommend McBride to the group's Board of Directors after an extensive search involving some 15 applicants, including several from outside California.

The LIFE board of directors is scheduled to meet in Sacramento on May 20.

McBride, if confirmed by the board, will be the lobbying organization's second executive director, replacing Rand Martin who resigned at the beginning of April to become a consultant on the Assembly Public Safety's subcommittee on drug abuse.

Martin had led the lobbying group's efforts since it began in June 1986.

"We believe that Laurie is an outstanding candidate to be executive director of the Lobby and that she will provide us considerable leadership skills and legislative advocacy skills, and that she's highly respected throughout the gay and lesbian community not only here in California but really around the nation," Disler said. "Even though the competition was close, because there were a lot of good people that came forward, we felt she was the person we needed at this time to lead the Lobby."

The LIFE Lobby is a statewide lobbying group of more than 70 affiliated gay, lesbian and AIDS organizations throughout California, focusing its lobbying efforts, both in the legislature and the administration, on AIDS, education and hate-crimes issues.

"Obviously I'm absolutely thrilled," McBride told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "The search process, I thought, was very intense, very nerve wracking. There were several other excellent candidates. I have a lot to do, should this job officially become mine. I've got big shoes to step into and a lot of ground to cover very quickly."

Ex-Priest Stallings

(Continued from page 24)

reading, "Hickey, Everybody's Got a Closet."

Attendance at Imani has also steadily continued to swell and the rebel priest has found enough support around the country to open the two other churches in Norfolk and Philadelphia.

Stallings also said he would be consecrated a bishop in mid-May by Archbishop Richard Bridges, a prelate in the Old Catholic Church, a sect that has been branded heretical by the Vatican for rejecting the doctrine of papal infallibility.

This consecration, Stallings the traditional Catholic priest noted, would permit him to ordain priests himself.

For a priest who's set up a church in defiance of the

Catholic Church, been excommunicated and branded everything from a closet homosexual to a child molester, it might seem odd for him to be concerned about a detail like being elevated to a title of bishop — even if by an ex-communicated archbishop. But Stallings, with all his defiance in the face of the Catholic hierarchy and press reports about alleged sexual escapades with altar boys, is nothing if not clearly a traditionalist. The issue, for Stallings, is what traditions are the right ones.

As Stallings told the SCU audience, "It does not matter how men or women try to box me in or name me.... I fear no one but God."

Given the seriousness of the most recent *Washington Post* report on Stallings, some gay rights activists now are beginning to wonder if the priest doesn't also have a serious problem with his fear of coming out.

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Onions and Orchids: Both Require Digging Up Dirt

It hardly seems possible that two years have passed since I wrote — referring to the Revelettes' "April Floozies Day, April 1, 1988" at Town & Country — "Get a stage, Blanche, get a stage!" Believe you me, what a difference a stage, curtain, proper lighting and an audience with unrestricted viewing can make. "From the Chapel to the Gutter" was a blockbuster, if you will, Saturday night, April 28 at Bjornson Hall in Oakland.

Of course there were glitches! Could we expect anything less? (1) The "promised, assured, word of honor, avowment" exact starting time was delayed by half an hour due to a totally unexpected broken spot light. (2) The program stated that *Hor d'oeuvres* [sic] would be served during the intermission. Either the kitchen didn't know this or didn't care, because huge trays of hors d'oeuvres complete with dazzling sparklers were sent through the darkened audience right during one of Morgan's performances. Talk about your ummitigated up-staging!

Enough with the onions. Now on to the orchids. Pleadits to Flame for being the Mistress of Ceremonies. Empress Ginger was there for

moral support, doing her shtick by reading two raffle ticket numbers.

Kudos to the tapestry of a show whose woofs and wefts were so masterfully woven as to include not only the basic plot of "good girls gone bad," but also sub-plots of "Tropical Vacation," "Off to the Chapel," "Into the Gutter," and "Dreamland" inter-woven to include performances by Fuji, Morgan, Stephanie and four "hunks," too. (Of course Princess [of B&B] is a hunk — in someone's eyes, we hope!)

The real stars of the evening just had to have been the sound and light crew and make-up personnel, who somehow managed to make silk purses out of Dottie, Felicia, Penny and Stella. (It's really difficult to decipher whether the Revelettes are guys dressed as gals wanting to be gals, or guys dressed as gals wanting to be guys looking like they want to be gals but they are actually guys wanting to be ...)

The planning and rehearsal and practice and set designing and staging and blocking and song selection and casting and all the other minutiae that must go into a "professional" presentation and that isn't realized/appreciated by the audience unless all the elements

aren't there, must hereby be acknowledged. Not knowing the principal director, here's a four-way tip of Nez's nose to Jim (Penny), Phil (Felicia), Richard (Dottie) and Stella (Steve). Someone knows his/her show business.

It was a "neat-o" idea of having the "tip gutter" on both sides of the ramp.

Let's see. The "girls" were on one last vacation before getting married; then the "girls" had their men, lost their men, told their men to "hit the road, Jack"; wound up doing "time," and hit the skiddest of skid rows; then had a dream of being someone famous. Morgan was the dream lady, Stephanie was Dionne W, Fuji was Diana R., Dottie was a wonderful Cher, Felicia was Tina T., Penny was Dolly P., and Stella was Cindy L. The moral of the evening was that girls just want to have fun and that's what friends are for!

Raffle ticket winners included Norm L. (50 lottery tickets); Robert R., II (Chinese vase); and Paul M. (microwave oven).

If nothing else, this Revelette presentation proved that the

court system isn't the only entity in the "community" that can pack a house for a drag show — especially when the cause is worthwhile. At this writing, no financial statement was available, but The Center and Project Inform benefited from everyone's hard work that night.

Gallimaufry (A "Mish-Mash" Nose)

The East Bay's own Cynthia Bythell is "singing showtunes and show stoppers" Friday evenings this month at The Blue Muse, 409 Gough St., in San Francisco. Each Friday she will have a different and special guest vocalist. Performances are from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.

The Alameda County Parade Contingent raised \$822 at its latest bake sale and auction held at Bill's the Eagle. Don't forget its next fundraiser at Town & Country this Friday, May 4, a mini-casino from 7 - 11 p.m. (That's this Friday, May 4, not May 11 as written last week!)

The next Alameda County Parade Contingent meeting

will be at Val Souza's house, Thursday, May 10. Call 482-3577 for directions.

There may have been some queens at the Revelettes' function, but the ISE Royalty was in Modesto celebrating the annual "Witches Xmas," which, this year, was dedicated to Marge Anderson.

Paul Moulton and Val Souza were in Modesto, too, to show off the 1974 Datsun 260 Z to be given away May 20, 7 p.m. at the big barbecue/carnival after the Boys vs Gals softball game.

Sunday, May 13: A First in Oakland! State Assemblyman and candidate for the next mayor of Oakland, Elihu Harris, will be at Town & Country from 3 - 5 p.m. to discuss his position on and answer questions about discrimination and gay rights in Oakland, as well as other important issues. Don't miss this important event and the opportunity to ask questions directly of a candidate!

If you find it difficult living within your income, just try living without your income! I can smile at that, because I'm counting down. Love, Nez ▼

'Most Wanted' Fugitive Being Held Without Bail

by Keith Clark

Thomas Walker, accused of the brutal July 1987 slaying of Benson Cruz of Hayward and apprehended by police in Las Vegas in February after he had been featured on the television program *America's Most Wanted*, is being held without bail in Oakland.

He was extradited from Nevada in mid-April.

Walker, who was described by police as "a gay-basher and a racist," was being treated at Highland Hospital in Oakland while facing murder charges in connection with the Cruz murder when he escaped by punching his way through a wall and fleeing.

At the court hearing, Walker's past criminal record and the murder charges now facing him were described by the Alameda County prosecutor who asked that Walker be held without bail based on the severity of the charges against him and his 1989 escape from custody at the hospital.

The court agreed and ordered the accused man held without bail.

Convicted at the age of 13 of voluntary manslaughter in the strangling of a 14-year-old fellow inmate at a youth detention center, for which he served a seven-year term in prison,

Walker was apparently hitchhiking when he was picked up by Cruz in his car.

The two went to an East Bay park where police say Walker shot Cruz seven times with a sawed-off shotgun.

Witnesses told police during their investigation that Walker hated homosexuals and singled out Cruz because of his sexual orientation.

Lt. Dean Hess of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office said, "He (Walker) went hunting for a particular victim, found him and killed him in cold blood."

Police say witnesses told them that Walker shot Cruz once when his gun jammed. The injured man lay on the ground pleading for his life as Walker unblocked the weapon and reloaded it, shooting Cruz six more times.

America's Most Wanted was broadcasting a re-enactment of the Cruz murder on Feb. 4 after Walker's escape when police received a tip that the wanted man was living in a house in Las Vegas where he was caught by local authorities.

Ironically, because of delayed broadcasting, Walker had just sat down to watch the TV program unaware that it was featuring him when police arrived to arrest him on a fugitive warrant. ▼

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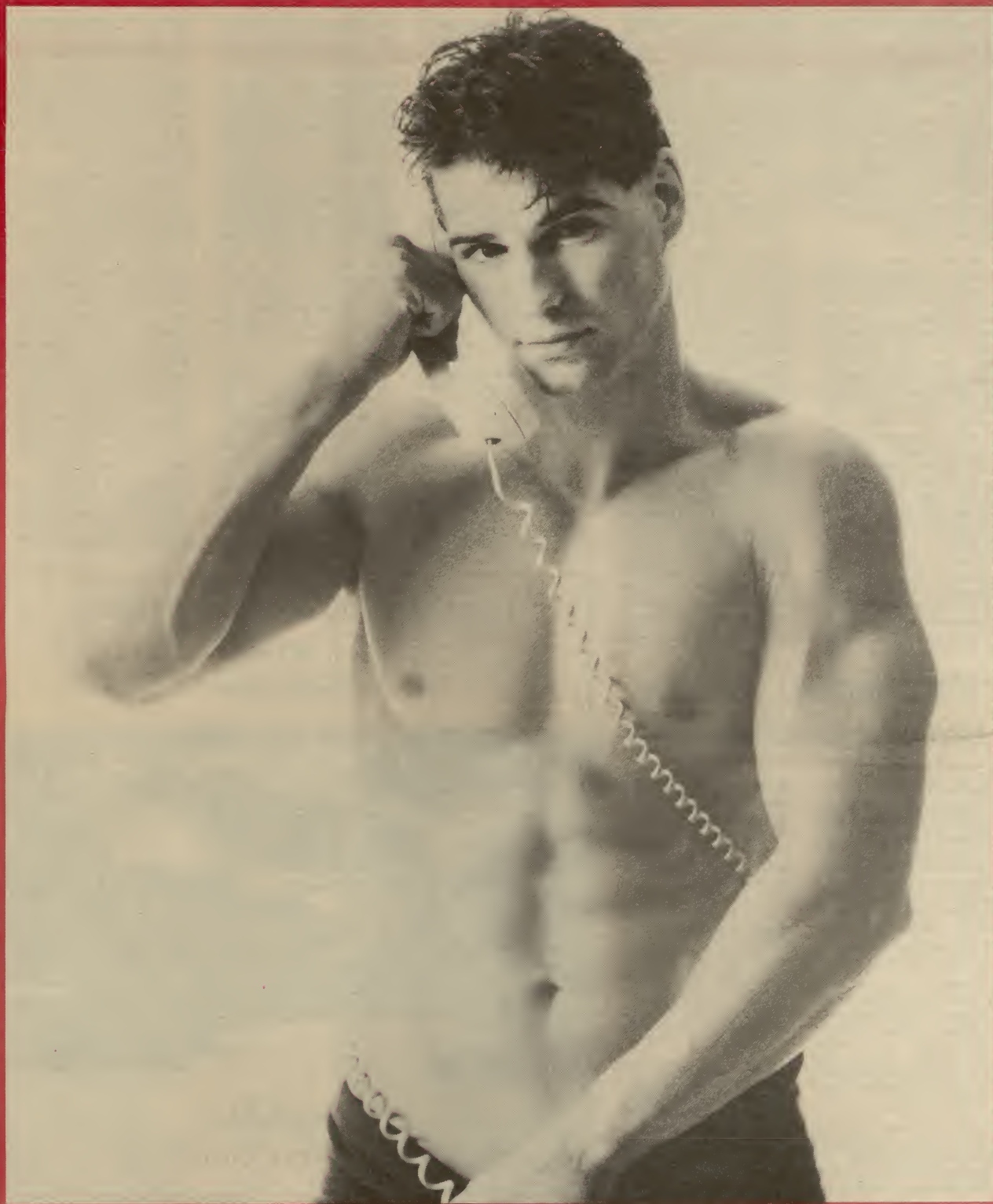
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Bay Area Reporter Arts & Entertainment

Fey! Gay!

Fox TV Goes Fruity.... But Do We Really Like It?

by Brandon Judell

It looks like the set of many a public access show. Bare, except for two chairs and a background wall with some stars' photographs pasted on.

Ah, but viva le difference! These chairs are caressing the butts of royalty: two royal black queens in klogs, scarves, and enough limp-wristed attitude to demote Fergie and Di to peasant stock. This is *Men on Film* with its two hosts Blaine Edwards and Antoine Merryweather.

Blaine: First up we're going to review the controversial movie *Do The Right Thing*. Now I really like little Spike Lee's courage in making this film. I especially like how he mixed the racial tension with the violence to get his message: "Do-o-o the right thing. Come out of the closet. Don't be afraid to be who you is."

Antoine: Ain't that the tru-uth, Ru-u-uth.

The truth, Ruth, is, however, that this was a skit in the outrageous new Fox Broadcasting's weekly comedy, *In Living Color*, and the lavender Siskel and Ebert are two actors, Damon Wayans and David Alan Grier.

This critically acclaimed show was created and co-

written by the not-hard-to-look-on Keenen Ivory Wayans. Mr. Wayans, a 6'2" stand-up comedian, is best known for co-writing and starring in Robert Townsend's *Hollywood Shuffle*, co-writing Eddie Murphy *Raw*, and for writing/directing *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka*, features that tweaked Holly-

**As we slowly
gain more
and more
media
attention, we
also have to
toughen our
thin skins.**

wood's tendency toward black stereotyping while adding to that city's reels of antigay celluloid.

Another point that might make us nervous on how to take the above skit, is that Damon Wayans, Keenen's brother, received an "award" for being anti-gay this past Sunday from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Anti-Gay or Not?

Damon Wayans earned the honor for a skit on fag-bashing that made it seem that we enjoyed getting battered. The *New York Times'* John J. O'Connor reviewed the "comedy" spot, part of the HBO offering, *Robert Townsend and His Partners in Crime II*, this way:

"[Townsend's] first HBO special featured a long routine involving AIDS that seemed alarmingly irresponsible until, at the very last moment, Mr. Townsend announced: 'We just joked about casual sex to make a point: Please, please protect yourself!'

"This new special again ventures into sensitive territory when a Damon Wayans routine ends with jokes about the current phenomenon of gay bashing, of thugs attacking homosexuals. Unfortunately, Mr. Townsend lets this pass without comment."

Stephen Miller, spokesperson for GLAAD, noted that Keenan later apologized for his brother, stating that his brother was not a homophobe. As for the *In Living Color* skit, GLAAD's phone person, Cookie Miranda, noted the show received only five complaints, a "moderate" amount.



Chris Lemmon (son of Jack) does some drag on Fox Broadcasting's *Open House*.

At a GLAAD meeting a few days following the broadcast, Miller noted, "We found the show acceptable in the bounds of humor. We feel it is acceptable in the spirit of caricature, but the show bears watching. Also, a lot of gay black men found it funny. The problem arises in that there are no positive images of gay blacks on TV. And since there's a

dearth, these characters can well be interpreted as a reality."

In fact, the only positive non-stereotyped treatments of gay blacks that come to mind are in the recent films, *Looking For Langston* and *Tongues Untied*. Putting that fact aside, the "Men on Film" spot was hysterically funny and con-

(Continued on page 32)

Friendly Advice

Warren Sonbert Makes Films About Life's Joys and Perils

by Daniel Mangin

While he was still in his teens, filmmaker Warren Sonbert caught the eyes of some of the influential of the 1960s New York avant garde, among them filmmaker/critic Jonas Mekas and James Stoller, founder of the *Moviegoer* journal.

"Sonbert is not yet 20 and will do more ambitious things," predicted Stoller, and, now heading into his 25th year of filmmaking, the former boy wonder has more than fulfilled his early promise, his work having played in countless festivals, museum screenings and one-man shows throughout the world.

Friendly Witness, Sonbert's latest film, which screens in the San Francisco Film Festival's "Enraptured Images" program (along with Gunvor Nelson's *Natural Features*, at Kabuki, May 6, 7:30 p.m. and at the Pacific Film Archive, May 8, 7:30 p.m.) is a 30-minute tour de force, a breathtaking series

of observations of homo erectus that is at once joyous and unsettling.

It's the first sound film he has made in some 20 years, and in that respect recalls his work from the '60s — *Amphetamine* (1966), which focuses on two boys snorting up and making out; *Where Did Our Love Go?* (1966), "glimpses of a Warhol-like Manhattan," the title inspired by the Supremes single — in that, like the earlier films its soundtrack is comprised (for the first half) of a series of rock songs — "Runaway," "Please, Mr. Postman," and others. (The soundtrack for the second half of *Friendly Witness* is Gluck's overture.)

Sonbert adheres to the Warholian dictum of using camera as a "witness" to events, but rather than observe the world statically, ad infinitum (or ad nauseum, as the case may be), there is an emotional involvement, a joy of life — coupled with an implicit acknowledgement of its perils — that permeates the work. His is



Warren Sonbert works to retain "a child's freedom."

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

an incredibly compelling vision, made all the more so by the film's intricate construction.

The filmmaker gleaned his footage in *Friendly Witness* from 24 years of shooting, from locales as near as his home in San Francisco and as far away as Morocco and Asia. The images whiz by frenetically, too fast ever to latch onto one, but evolving so smoothly into each other — cars making a turn

give way to swans on a lake; tight, circular shots of a stained glass window become a geodesic dome — that the effect is mesmerizing.

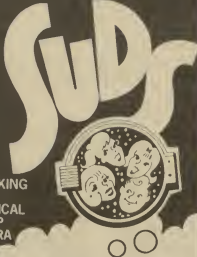
A curious thing sticks out about Stoller's 1966 comments about *Amphetamine*. Stoller noted that perhaps the most important thing the film indicated was that Sonbert had been able to "free" his imagination in order to create his art. When I asked Sonbert last

month if his being gay was part of the process that enabled him to create, the filmmaker said it had everything to do with it, specifically connecting being gay with remaining "open" and being able to maintain a "childish" outlook on the world.

Our conversation ranged over a number of subjects, from what makes a film gay to how he puts a film together.

(Continued on page 38)

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They were, in other words, in full possession of their gonads and their music should convey that impression when performed. Why not?

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Chaos in Uranus



Miss Chaos Contest

At Club Uranus, Sunday, April 29, clockwise from top left: Miss Chaos 1990 winner Clita Govoytnier struts her stuff; Jennifer Morris between two queens; Jeanette Earwax presents Govoytnier with the grand prize, a broken three-way make-up mirror; Lois Pectations on her skates; Mother competes in talent competition.

(Photos: Rick Gerharter)



'Longtime Companion' Benefit

The Academy of Friends presents the benefit premiere of the film *Longtime Companion* on Thursday, May 10 at the Cinema 21 Theatre, 2141 Chestnut St. in San Francisco.

Tickets are \$25 for a Sponsor Donation, and \$75 for a Patron Donation. The Patron donation includes a reception following the screening with the film's director, Norman Rene, at the Portman Hotel, 500 Post St.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Project Open Hand.

Longtime Companion chronicles eight years in the lives of a small circle of friends, starting from the day in 1981 when the *New York Times* first printed an article about the outbreak of a "rare cancer" in the gay community, known today as AIDS.

The film, which played the Mill Valley Film Festival last fall, was the "audience favorite" at the U.S. Film Festival in



Patrick Cassidy plays a gay actor in *Longtime Companion*.

January. Its regular engagement begins Friday, May 18 at the Cinema 21.

For more information about the Academy of Friends benefit, phone 781-7573.

Musings of a Mystic Atheist

Edmund White on the 'Violet Quill Club,' Jean Genet and the State of Gay Writing

by Kevin Killian

In person Edmund White seems much more relaxed than you'd guess from the magisterial novels that have come from him over the last 20 years. He is the author of the formally inventive *Forgetting Elena*, *Nocturnes for the King of Naples*, and *Caracole*. With the English writer Adam Mars-Jones he has written a book of short stories about the AIDS crisis called *The Darker Proof*. The autobiographical *A Boy's Own Story* spawned a sequel, *The Beautiful Room is Empty*. White's "travels in Gay America" are recounted in *States of Desire*, and he is the master publicist who co-authored *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

White came to San Francisco a couple of weeks ago to read from his work at a benefit for various AIDS groups. The following afternoon I met with Mr. White in his room at the Clift Hotel.

White calls himself a "mystical atheist," and says he doesn't like atheism pure and simple, "because in a strictly materialistic society I do feel that parts of the human soul don't get addressed."

The author was pleased to tell me that two days before he'd been named a full, tenured professor at Brown University. Teaching creative writing, directing 10 or 12 theses, White has had little time to write himself this spring.

"I find teaching more difficult than I had imagined. I thought it would just be a part-time job, but in fact I just race from nine in the morning to midnight, every day. My boyfriend says he's never seen me work so hard."

To one side the remains of a hotel breakfast for two stood on a round table, white linen, flowers, silver tipped in jelly, butter dishes. A dish of raspberries caught some of the late morning sun and glowed crimson.

★ ★ ★

In his introduction to his anthology *Men on Men*, George Stambolian speaks of the "legendary" Violet Quill Club, of which you were one of the members. The Club was a gay men's writing group which met between 1979 and 1981.

Like all such groups, it seems more serious and important in retrospect than it did then. It was very little different than say, when, slightly later, *Brideshead Revisited* came out and we'd all meet in each other's houses once a week and give each other dinner and watch the TV show for the heck of it.

The club wasn't very formal; none of us were very well-known; we were just a bunch of friends. I barely remember all of it, in fact, but luckily a number of the boys in it were

compulsive diarists, so we have some rather good records.

Robert Ferro kept a very good journal, and Michael Grumley, his lover, an even better one. Felice Picano keeps elaborate journals. And they all wildly exchanged letters with each other, including Andrew Holleran, who writes wonderful letters. So all of them churned up many more actual documents, "primary texts," than I did.

Since Yale has that Gay and Lesbian Studies Group, I got this idea that all our papers should go to the Beinecke Library. For better or worse,

I think there was an excitement in writing about our actual experience, since no one had written about that kind of commercial-clone-New York society.

The Violet Quill is one of the few native gay writing groups there is to be studied.

But who knows how much longer any of us [still living] will be alive? Although Holleran is sero-negative, if you can imagine that — isn't that odd? And Felice too.

There's a nice woman at Yale, a librarian called Pat Willis, who's trying to see us all, evaluate what we have, nothing's yet been settled.

It's a very long process. And of course if you're still writing, teaching, creating, as I am, you don't really want to take several months out of your life to arrange your papers. Who wants to bother? Yet it must be done.

Stambolian remarks on the autobiographical nature of the fiction produced by the group, calling it the "inevitable next step" in gay writing at that period. Was autobiography a focus of the group?

I think there was an excitement in writing about our actual experience, since no one had written about that kind of commercial-clone-New York society. They were all wonderful readers, that's the thing: if you knew you were to read a chapter of *A Boy's Own Story* at the next meeting, to Robert Ferro, Michael Grumley, Andrew Holleran, and all those people, you'd think, "Gee, it better be good." You'd want to keep up your side; you'd work to make it better than it might have been otherwise.

We were all extremely generous with each other: we once thought of calling the group the "All-Praise Club," since our senses of solidarity



Edmund White is working on a new biography of Genet.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

and companionship, were so very real. We thought we should all move along as a vanguard.

You've been working on a biography of Genet for many years. How is that progressing?

I moved back to the U.S. from France in January 1990, so that's been a major interruption. And then teaching; but I hope to make enormous progress over the summer, and maybe have the book all done by December.

Have you had cooperation from Gallimard, the French publishing house that controls Genet's work?

Gallimard's publishing the book in France, so yes, I've had their cooperation.

Genet's an interesting choice for you to write about.

It was the idea of my editor, the late Bill Whitehead. I'm glad it's allowed me to learn about Genet, and to read his work with close attention. It's a body of work that's been underrated generally, especially by Americans. I don't like the plays that much, but the

five novels are masterpieces great as Proust.

I think he's certainly one of the five great French writers of our century. The French now admit that: of the writers since Proust, only Genet and Celine are put in the first rank. Every page of Genet's rewards study. He never disappoints, and never falls into the "tricks" common to other novelists.

Is this a critical biography?

I am going to write about the books, quite a bit, because I figure that a biography is dated. In ten years it will be replaced by a biography with more facts. The only way a biography can have any kind of staying power is if it is a critical biography. Its interesting views on the work will be the one thing that delays its obsolescence.

But I think I've rendered future biographers a great service by doing an enormous amount of interviewing of all the surviving friends. Because soon — say, in another ten years — they will have all died.

I've got a tremendous amount of material. I've interviewed 13 villagers who knew Jean Genet, before the age of

13. I've interviewed his god-mother, who's almost 100 years old — in dialect. Pimps, thieves, whores, and literary people: these were the people he knew, and these were the people I've interviewed.

Writing the life of Genet, a member of the underclass, did you run into the problem of a lack of documentation?

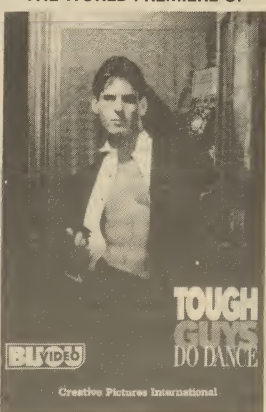
There are no documents, except for the official police records. And occasionally when Genet was arrested, there would be a smalltown news story about him. Long before he was well known, however, he was colorful, in that he dressed like a dandy, expressed "odd" opinions, would say he was writing a great masterpiece, which to the local journalists covering the story seemed uproariously funny.

Genet was brought up a peasant in a region of France the American equivalent to which might be Kentucky... he was a "hillbilly." Imagine an American boy brought up in a small town in the Smoky Mountains, becoming a great stylist in

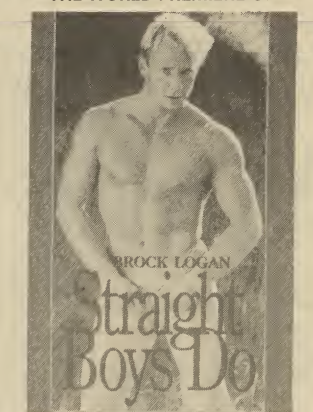
(Continued on page 46)

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TELEVISION

Fey! Gay! Fox Goes Fruity

(Continued from page 29)

tinues to be after numerous watchings. This is the result that the two gay men are obviously happy that they are gay and femme and black and outrageous. They are bowing down to no one.

Of course, we'd like to see a skit with these two walking down a street in Harlem or even down Castro Street. Let's see how their buoyant humor can handle the racism and bigotry found in the black, white and gay communities. In the meantime, one has to admit that some of the gags are quite funny:

Antoine: Now I'd like to talk about a film I was anxiously awaiting to see, *Great Balls of Fire!*

Blaine: I ain't gonna touch it, but the title alone gets two snaps up....

Antoine: Would you join us next week when we talk about Mel Gibson's *Lethal Weapon*?
Blaine: I hope it's loaded.

Antoine: You crazy!

They Both Like Men

Earlier the same night, Fox's *Married...With Children* aired another gay stereotype. Kelly, the oversexed, low IQ-ed daughter of the series, was asked why she couldn't be more like another student in the class. "Well," Kelly retorts, "we both like men."

The student happened to be black and obviously gay. He also was teacher's pet and his specialty was cinnamon toast. The good thing about the seg-



Keenen Ivory Wayans, left, and Damon Wayans peddle Milli Vanilli kit.

ment, once again, was the boy was glad he was gay. He showed no signs of embarrassment by Kelly's remark. (Remember Divine was about to become a regular cast member on this show the week he died.)

Also, to Fox's credit is *The Tracy Ullman Show*, which regularly features segments about two gay men raising a daughter and *Open House*, which features drag once in awhile and stars the hilarious actor who played the gay character Donald Maltby in Showtime's *Brothers*.

All of which brings us to the point that Shakespeare noted

so well in *Othello*: "They laugh that win." As we slowly gain more and more media attention, we also have to toughen our thin skins. We have to stop sitting in front of our TV sets and asking ourselves, "Our we allowed to laugh at this?" or "Now this would be all right if it were done in a gay club, but..."

We pretty well know who our enemies are, and happily Fox Broadcasting doesn't make that list. Which reminds me, do you know what you call a mushroom with a big head and a 10-inch stem? A fun-gi to be with. ▼

Young Gays on the Town

by Kevin M. Davis

If you're a gay or lesbian age 23 or younger, you're invited to a Clean and Sober Dance Saturday, May 5 at the Women's Building.

Donna Ozawa, a spokeswoman for the Lavender Youth Recreation Center (LYRIC), sponsor of the event, told the *B.A.R.* last week, "This is the only kind of dance where young gays and lesbians can bring a boyfriend or girlfriend. It brings young people together."

LYRIC social events are planned consensus-style by peer leaders.

Alfonso Diaz, 19, a leader since November, says, "We're defined as peer coordinators by our level of participation. About six months ago, each of us gradually took on more responsibilities. We started creating social events."

Empowering Young People

"LYRIC was started to empower young people to coordinate events," says LYRIC's Beth Kivel, an adult coordinator with the organization.

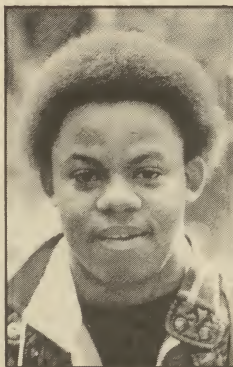
"Young people need to be part of the entire decision-making process. The adults' role is to raise money, be supportive, and to find other adults to share the burden."

The next big task for LYRIC will be outreach to high school and minority gays and lesbians.

"The vast majority of gay

and lesbian youth in the city are in school and live with their parents," Ozawa says.

"Eighty percent of the public school students in San Francisco are people of color. So, 80 percent of the gays and lesbians are minorities, too. We need the leadership of the



Peer leader Vincent Fuqua

adult gay and lesbian community to recognize this."

Twenty-three-year-old peer leader Kristin Hoffmeister says, "When I was in high school I missed any kind of outreach that was aimed my way. Coming out wasn't a topic of conversation in the Boston area."

Vince Fuqua, 20, helps facilitate LYRIC gay youth rap group meetings, which are

held on Friday nights at MCC. He sees the problem this way: "The people have to acknowledge that there are young gays, then we can work on showing them there are people of color."

Beth Kivel adds, "High school students need to know it's safe to come out. You're not going to change young people's attitudes until they see adults changing their attitudes toward lesbian and gay people. We must create space for young people to be themselves."

"The problem with communicating with high school gays and lesbians is that we have to use the proper channels," Diaz says.

"From what I've heard, the gay and lesbian sensitive contact persons at high schools aren't known. It's difficult for students to find out about them."

The day after their dance, some of the LYRIC kids will be engaged in another of their favorite activities, playing as Rossi's Rookies in the Gay Softball League. They invite interested youths to check out the dance or the game.

The LYRIC Clean and Sober Dance takes place from 8 p.m. until midnight at the Women's Building, 18th and Valencia in San Francisco. A \$4 donation is requested. Rossi's Rookies' play their next game Sunday, May 6, 10:20 a.m. at Kimball Field, Geary and Steiner. For more information about LYRIC, phone 531-4612. ▼

When Good Manners Seem Scary

by Mark Finch

Anyone who thought William Friedkin should have burned in hell for *Cruising* will be enlivened by his new movie *The Guardian*.

After this frightless horror film, he'll never find another job in Hollywood. In Beverly Hills, unemployment is worse than fire and brimstone.

The Guardian is about a problem doubtless affecting many young working couples: how to get a good nanny? Brad and Janet (not their real names; I forget what they're called, and it really doesn't matter) move from Chicago to L.A. and, before you can say *Rosemary's Baby*, Janet's in ward one, giving birth to a worryingly pale thing they call Jake.

Too Busy to Breast-feed

She's an interior designer; he's a graphic artist. They're too busy to breast-feed. Through the Yellow Pages they hit upon Guardian Angels and pretty soon Jenny Seagrove turns up at the door.

Turns out Jenny's really a witch who feeds four-week-old tots to a tree monster in Brad and Janet's back garden, in between knocking off their neighbors and local hoodlums.

Now, I have no problem with what happens later (minor levitation; wolves wild on L.A. streets; a tree which enjoys foreplay as much as man-eating), but Jenny Seagrove as a force for evil? Too incredible.

Actually, I like Friedkin's earlier films. In *Cruising* and *The Exorcist* there's a giddy sense of horror in the midst of urban life. (The same sweaty-forehead feeling you can experience for free in Safeway on Market any Saturday night.)

Specifically, Friedkin knows how to mix contemporary anxieties with horror movie myths. For a moment, *The Guardian* looks like doing the same, possibly repulsively.

Brad's hired by an L.A. ad agency — The Belly of The Beast — on the basis of his abortion-oriented public information campaign. (It's not revealed which side he was employed to argue for.)

And his wife has some doubts about having someone else look after their child. Friedkin's always been able to harvest scares out of these kind of Modern Parent magazine dilemmas.

Then again, an L.A. suburb (Astral Drive!) isn't perhaps the best place for Friedkin to set his story. He hardly ever moves the camera out of Brad and Janet's swank new three-sofa home.

Nerdy Architect

Tellingly, the only other major character is Ned, the house's architect. Ned's not like any architect I know. First of all, he's not remotely attractive. He's what you might call nerdy, or what I call Stephen-King-on-a-stick.

Second, he's not very smart. When he's assailed by Jenny and her carnivorous coyotes, his own-designed home proves fairly useless in stopping them.

Surely any Southern California architect worth his salt would safeguard against teleporting nannies and blood-

crazed wolves?

I love horror movies. They can often say more about modern anxieties than the whole season of *thirtysomething*.

In horror, what's evil is often an index of wider social fears. *The Exorcist*'s twelve-year-old head-turner spews up a truckload of loathing and worry about pre-teen sexuality and child abuse, as well as stuff about single parents, political stability, and the rewards of being a child star.

The Guardian's site of evil is a well-spoken Englishwoman with indefatigable etiquette. "She's European" hisses one L.A. householder who comes to warn Brad. They nod knowingly.

"She's too good to be true," says Brad's creepy button-down boss, meaning her manners.

Foreignness Threatens

It's her politeness which is seen as a guise, and her foreignness which makes it threatening. Even if she didn't

snack on new-born babes, she would be unnatural in the film's terms.

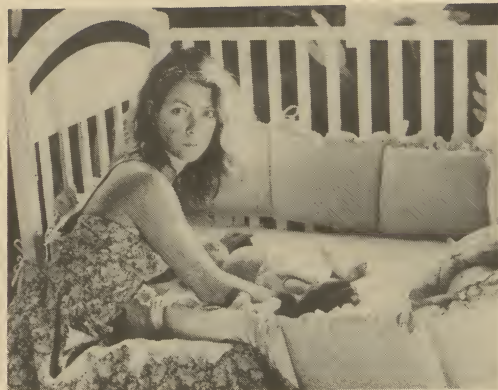
As a moderately well-spoken Londoner who knows how to use a fork and knife when he has to, I was a little taken aback by the hostility hurled at Jenny's character.

What's wrong with good manners and icy formality? It certainly helped me get along with my ex-boyfriend's mother for seven years.

The other mildly interesting thing about *The Guardian* is its anti-green theme. The witch's home — in contrast to Brad and Janet's H&G interior — is a grisly-looking old oak just beyond the backyard.

Each time someone follows her there they end up thistle-torn and damp with boggy water. The slayings are performed by the tree's violently animated branches. The soundtrack is merely rural silence.

This is familiar enough to anyone who's watched *Pet Sematary* or *Poltergeist*. An



Jenny Seagrove as a force for evil? Too incredible.

extra environmental twist to *The Guardian* is that Brad and Janet are also troubled by what the *Chronicle* would tag as "swarms of temblors."

These are narratively unrelated to Jenny's goings-on — just part of the first reel scene-setting. But it's scarier than any amount of peckish plantation or Mary Poppins-gone-bonkers.

In reality and in this film, earthquakes represent nature's two-fingers at culture — the "fuck you" triumph of irrationality over rationality.

In this sense, *The Guardian* is enjoyable as a timely riposte to *Earth Day*. *Earth Day II* — *Nature Bites Back*.

The Guardian may be dull, but it gives a glimpse of film future. Hollywood prediction for 1990: more fear-of-nature themes, more Europhobia. Just like when my ex-boyfriend's mom went to the movies — the 1950s. ▼

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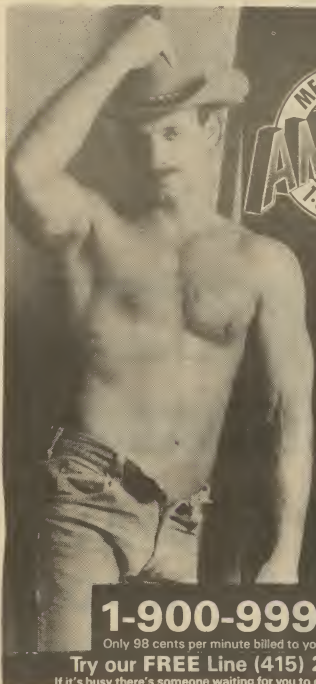
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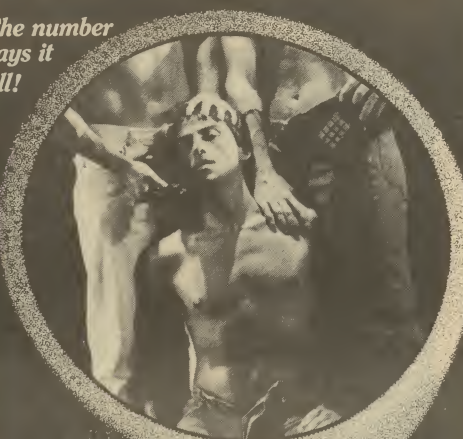
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COMMUNITY

Winds of Freedom Band

New Leader's Exciting Debut

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Winds of Freedom, recently renamed concert band of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps, presented a knockout concert of music and togetherness last Friday night at First Congregational Church. A great deal of credit is due their new conductor and artistic director Nancy Corporon, who made her debut as the organization's leader that evening.

It would be needless understatement pointing out the band's enormous improvement as a musical ensemble. We have always seen them as wonderfully positive ambassadors of goodwill; now the community can boast of a superior group of musicians as well.

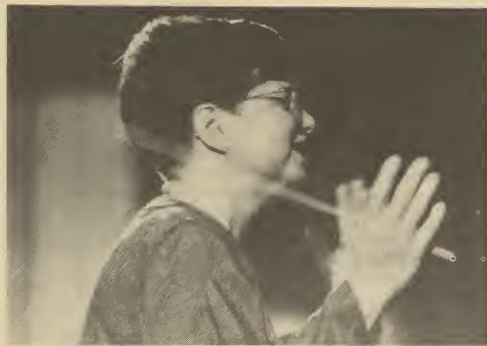
Since her appointment in January of this year, after a decade of involvement with the lesbian and gay music movement, Ms. Corporon has fashioned the Winds of Freedom into an impressive performing troupe — as dynamic and finely tuned in serious repertoire as they appear in light classics and pops. A fine achievement after only four, obviously fruitful, months.

Produced under the auspices of the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, "A Deuce of a Concert," (as the program was aptly named) also featured Redwood recording artists Jean Fineberg and Ellen Seeling with their stimulating combo Deuce. Nancy Corporon's association with Deuce and also with the late Jon Sims has been long and affectionate, a fact she illustrated with several amusing and interesting anecdotes.

Other members of the group include Melanie Jones on keyboards, Curtis Olsen on bass and a high-voltage Deb Lane on drums. Their contributions, with Fineberg's earthy sax and searing flute solos and Seeling's hot trumpet, added immeasurably to the concert's full and varied bill of fare.

Crowd Was Hers

Opening with a strong "Ellen Bayne" from the Army Band Journal, featuring the brass and moving swiftly to a somewhat tentative Aria with Fughetta for Woodwind Choir by Arthur Frackenpohl, Corporon soon showed the entire Winds of Freedom to best advantage with a rousing Festive Overture by Shostakovich. Her ambitious game plan paid off handsomely and the sizable



Nancy Corporon is Wind of Freedom's new conductor.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

and enthusiastic crowd was hers for the rest of the night.

Deuce appeared next, cooking along with the big band in a swinging "Stars and Stripes Forever" and an original Jean Fineberg tune, "Easy Street." A latin-flavored "Chevere" by Ellen Seeling spotlighted Deuce as they may be heard on their Redwood Recordings disc.

Following a comfortable and highly sociable intermission, The Winds of Freedom came back for an extended set that included more John Philip Sousa, "The Thunderer" and



Jean Fineberg of Deuce

a superb selection of melodies from Claude-Michel Schoenberg's rather remarkable score for *Les Misérables* — beautifully transcribed and arranged by Warren Barker.

These tunes of sadness, anger, hope and resolution became the emotional centerpiece of the evening for me, brilliantly showing the band as a cohesive unit and proving Nancy Corporon's affinity for stage music; her credits include musical assignments in opera and Gilbert and Sullivan, and Broadway productions as varied as "West Side Story" and "Tap Dance Kid."

As a stirring tribute to friends and lovers lost due to AIDS, the band delivered a richly sustained Trauersin-

fonie by Richard Wagner, arranged by Erik Leidzen. It was an important, appropriate moment of reflection and earned Winds of Freedom a credential for accomplished "serious" music playing style.

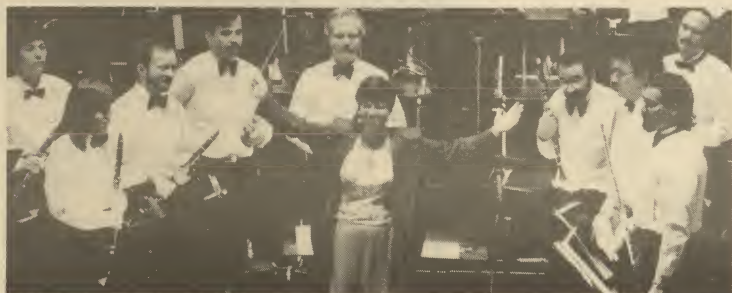
Highest Caliber

An insight to the caliber of musicians involved came when I spotted the often flamboyant and usually solo David Kelsey (star of the New Bell Saloon) working semi-anonymously in the percussion section. Future concerts may feature him in his accustomed splendor at the organ console, but I suspect he's just as happy blending with the other dedicated players in The Winds of Freedom.

An unsuccessful "Earle of Oxford's March" was marred by faulty ensemble and intonation, but it was a minor miscalculation, quickly forgotten when Deuce returned for a rollicking "Tough Cookie" by Jean Fineberg. The combo was augmented by the entire crew for the final number, "Water Sounds" also by Fineberg and arranged by Wayne L. Love. The lyrical instrumental solos contrasted well with the full-throated backup. The encore number, a wild and ear-splitting "La Bamba," brought the house down and called for some well-deserved bouquets to the principals onstage.

The San Francisco Winds of Freedom have become, in one memorable night, a force to be reckoned with on the richly endowed local music scene. With the zesty, charismatic and downright adorable personality (no patronizing sexism intended) of Nancy Corporon to lead them on we can expect another decade of viability for the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and some happy and satisfying future concerts.

I can't wait to see them strut their considerable stuff this coming June. ▼



Nancy Corporon accepts applause along with members of the Winds of Freedom Band.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Cultural Quirks and Bad Taste

by George Heymont

Beauty may rest in the eye of the beholder. But the beholder's vision is often colored by previous experience. If a person is extremely narrow-minded, his sight will remain as limited as the light which passes through a polarized lens.

When examining another culture, that person may only be capable of seeing what he wants to see. If, however, a person is open to new experiences, his exposure to new ways of thinking can broaden his life in the same way that a prism refracts the colors of the spectrum.

When traveling to foreign cultures, visiting bizarre attractions (like the Tupperware Museum of Historic Food Containers) or interviewing people whose personal credos are diametrically opposed to my own, I've often found it wise to put my own beliefs on a back burner in order to accommodate someone else's point of view.

While I often feel a strong desire to slap people who have lost any and all touch with reality, on a recent trip through the Midwest I found my ability to suspend disbelief being severely tested. One occasion involved a daring use of theatrical traditions from another culture; the other took the most stereotypical American experience and applied it, quite perversely, to a grand religious tradition.

Tora! Tora! Tora!

When *Pacific Overtures* was first performed in January 1976, few New Yorkers were prepared to tackle a darkly satirical musical depicting the slow but steady rape of a traditional culture that had proudly maintained its isolation from the rest of the world for more than two centuries. The boldness of the Hal Prince/Boris Aronson production combined with the strangeness of Sondheim's score confounded audiences.

Indeed, it was only when *Pacific Overtures* was revived in smaller productions housed in more intimate theaters, that Sondheim's music and lyrics (combined with John Weidman's book) proved the show's mettle as a daringly innovative piece of musical theatre. With the current strength of Japan's economy, Skylight Opera Theater's recent production of *Pacific Overtures* allowed audiences to realize just how visionary this work was at its world premiere.

One of the peculiar challenges in staging *Pacific Overtures* is that the show requires a small cast to enact a multitude of roles. Skylight's 15th anniversary production (designed by Russ Borski and most effectively staged by Victoria Bussert) offered an impressive case for Sondheim's highly atmospheric and severely under-rated Japanese adventure.

Although Lee Strawn's Narrator, C. Michael Wright's Manjiro, Brian McLaughlin's Kayama and Larry Yando's Lord Abe were strongly-etched and pleasing portraits, the six-actor ensemble comprised of J. Michael Brennan, Tricia Carlisle, Kyle and Tracy Colerider-

Listening to
orgiastic
groans that
could have
been taped at
the old
Folsom Street
Barracks, I
daintily
tiptoed down
the
"Corridors of
Sin."

Krugh, McKinley Johnson and James Mahady artfully did the work of what seemed like a cast of thousands.

Because my seat allowed me to peer into the orchestra pit of Milwaukee's tiny Skylight

Theatre, I became particularly fascinated with the inner workings of Sondheim's sparse but powerful score which (thanks to the help of a synthesizer) had been skillfully reduced to accommodate an orchestra of only four musicians.

There is so much mathematics and magic to be found in this man's work that one only wishes the creative team which launched *Pacific Overtures* in 1976 could have found an audience that could appreciate the subtlety of their show's stagecraft, the intricacy of its ironies and the complexity of its concept.

See No Evil

For years, I was convinced that the Liberate Museum in Las Vegas held top honors for bad taste. But, after visiting Oral Roberts University during my recent trip to Tulsa and experiencing the famed televangelist's 36-minute "Journey Into Faith," followed by the 26-minute "Journey Through



McKinley Johnson as Commodore Perry in *Pacific Overtures*.

The Bible" (the latter designed by Disney World's Imagineers) I think I've discovered something that could leave John Waters and Paul Bartel speechless with envy.

All too often people will say things like "You had to be there to believe it." But, in this case it's true. After witnessing a kitschy multi-media version

(Continued on page 55)

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Superstar Benefit Jam

by David Taylor-Wilson

In these times of economic uncertainty, where each passing day sees the number of America's homeless continue to rise, it's hard not to recognize that the homeless identity factor has changed. The folks next door, close

In a phone interview from Malibu, Ms. Orbison told the Beat, "Roy always considered his voice, and his ability to write music a gift from God. And he knew that in order to keep that gift he had to give it away freely."

"For Roy, that meant travel-

Debuting Sunday, May 6 at 10 p.m. on Showtime, the concert features performances by the Stray Cats, John Lee Hooker, Bonnie Raitt, k.d. lang, B.B. King, John Hiatt, John Fogerty, the Byrds, Bob Dylan, Dwight Yoakam and Chris Isaak.

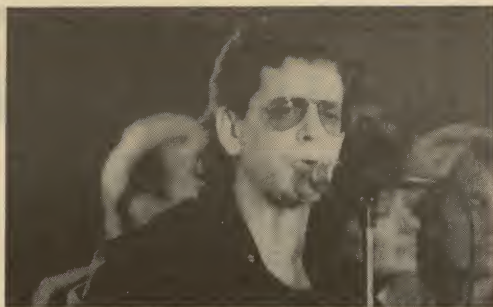
Footage was filmed Feb. 24 at the Universal Amphitheatre in Los Angeles. Showtime's signal will be descrambled throughout the performance so that non-subscribers will be able to tune in to the benefit as well. Donations can be made by calling 1-800-873-4769. Viewers contributing \$20 or more will receive a free audio cassette featuring the music of Orbison.

Live Jams, Cont'd

Speaking of the Showtime cable network, we've mentioned their fabulous, *Showtime Coast To Coast* musical jam sessions before. If you're a Showtime subscriber and haven't checked out this Ace Award-winning show yet, you're really missing out.

In this age of music video flash, where a hundred images can flash before your eyes in a matter of seconds, the purpose for the video, *the music*, sometimes gets buried.

The one thing that makes *Coast To Coast* so immediately appealing is the simplicity of its presentation. No extreme hype or exploding fireworks, just top-notch talent on stage



Lou Reed performs in *Showtime Coast to Coast* all-star edition.

performing. Raw talent at its very best.

The Beat spoke to Ken Ehrlich, the producer for *Coast To Coast*, by phone last week. We mentioned this simple, almost spartan approach in presenting the show's artists and how it's effect seems to focus the spotlight even more on the performing artists.

"That's true," Ehrlich responded. "And we usually try to put the show together with a minimal amount of rehearsal. What we try to keep are those moments of musical inspiration."

"I think that the concept of the show is to try and find the pockets of music that you don't see elsewhere, and to present them in a way that gives you some insight into the performers that you're seeing. We try to concentrate on people who are the best at what they do, without being concerned with who has the No. 1 record at the moment."

The current installment of *Coast To Coast* runs twice more this month (May 8 and 13). This debut episode for the 1990 season is another all-star music event, featuring performances by Michael Bolton, B.B. King, Bruce Hornsby, Sting, Lou Reed, Bonnie Raitt, Ricki Lee Jones and program host Herbie Hancock among many others.

Calm After the Storm

Nanci Griffith can count eight successful albums among her accomplishments. In Ireland, this Texan from Austin is as popular as U2 and, was the first artist there to have the same single reach No. 1 five times!

So why is she still considered a maverick? In a phone interview from Nashville, Griffith said, "I was never really accepted on Country radio in the U.S. And I never really considered myself a Country artist. I called myself 'folkabilly,' because of my folk music roots with a little bit of hillbilly thrown in. In Europe, I've always been marketed as a Pop artist, and have always done real well."

Griffith's latest album, *Storms*, continues her eclectic journey in music. About the album itself — which Griffith says is her favorite to date — and its somewhat dark overtones, Griffith commented, "It was a real stormy year for me. I had a really hard year. A real bad bout with depression, and so I just got it all out of my system with this album."

If you're familiar with Griffith's work, you know her style of writing is unique in that each song is itself a mini-musical-novella.

"It's like writing a 3-1/2 minute short story that takes the audience somewhere else and allows them to be someplace else," Griffith said. "In turn that allows me to be

somebody else. I have been very fortunate to be able to walk on stage, and in 90 minutes be 20 different characters, and express and experience all the things that Nanci Griffith as an individual would never do in real life. So, for me it's fiction and a great escape."

Currently on tour in support of *Storms*, Nanci Griffith can be seen in concert tonight, May 3, at the Great American Music Hall.

The Mac is Back

Behind the Mask is the new album from Fleetwood Mac. Fans who have followed the Mac since its original inception in 1970 will not be disappointed with this latest effort. Its style harkens back to the Mac's earlier days before Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham joined the group in 1975 and helped catapult the band to superstardom.

The new album finds Nick and Christine McVie belting out some of the heartiest and grittiest vocal works ever. With Buckingham now having exited the band, newcomers Billy Burnette (lead vocals/guitar) and Rick Vito (lead



k.d. lang

guitar/vocals) step in and fill his shoes most aptly. They have added a new spark to this band with their writing contributions, along with a new sound with their added vocals.

Warner Brothers wins this week's "Promo-of-the-Week" award with its special packaging of the *Behind the Mask* CD for the press. Our CD came in a beautiful parchment styled box that, when opened, contained parchment paper listing the contents of the new CD. Behind that was a very nice group photo of the Mac, and behind that, the CD was centered and mounted within the box. Fleetwood Mac collectors are hereby notified.

The Rear-View

Ten years ago this week, "Funkytown" by Lipps Inc. moved into the No. 1 spot, dethroning Blondie's "Call Me." Meanwhile, *Against the Wind* by Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band captured the No. 1 album spot, edging out Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. ▼



Roy Orbison Tribute Concert will aid homeless.

friends, relatives are just as likely victims as anyone else.

In an effort to help combat this issue, Paula Orbison, widow of the late great legend Roy Orbison, has put together a star-studded array of Rock, Pop, and Country stars in a tribute to her late husband that will benefit the homeless. The benefit will screen on the Showtime cable network.

ing long hours to step on stage for an hour and a half and give everything he had. When Roy started out in music, the music industry hadn't established itself yet. And Roy didn't know if he was going to last one night, a couple days or a couple months. Because of that Roy had said that the musician in him could identify with the plight of the homeless."

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On the Gender Front

by John F. Karr

A couple of recent newspaper articles carried information that rippled through my mind, and just like those little earthquakes that jiggle the ground under your feet, the mental tremors caused by the news were both scary and amusing.

"Male Domination Linked to Competitive Sperm," cried a headline last February. Seems some scientists feel that those stereotypical male qualities — leadership, domination, even the tendency to war — may be caused by what they called "Darwinism in the Womb."

In brief, men may have become biologically programmed to be aggressive — that's what causes their sperm to make that upstream swim to fertilize an egg.

I felt guilty enough, thinking that my sperm might cause the next world war. It made me want to masturbate a lot, just to get the nasty little buggers out. But I felt even guiltier after reading a second article.

Lack of Tact

This came from no less august a body than the United Nations, whose 26-member Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities blamed men for lesbianism. There might be fewer lesbians, the United Nations panel proclaimed, if men were more kind to women.

Society had probably over-emphasized the differences between the sexes, the study said: "It is... likely that the assertion of a purported male supremacy has had a deeply disturbing effect on many women, and that there would be fewer lesbians if men were able to be more affectionate, more attentive and more tactful."

I had no idea homosexuality in women was caused by lack of tact. "Gee, Officer, I'm sorry I made that woman be a lesbian — I didn't mean to be untactful. But I couldn't help it — the biological imperialism of my sperm made me do it!"

That men are responsible for lesbianism is strange and potentially dangerous information. While it could make some of us swear to be polite for the rest of our lives, it could be a potent weapon for others. Imagine armies of gay activists running crazy through the streets, speaking rudely to people in order to swell the ranks of homosexuals.

It's shattering after all this time to find that one isn't born homosexual, or that your sperm can't be trusted. We thought we had less responsibility in the matter. After all, isn't gender destiny?

Perhaps not, as local playwright Kate Bornstein (*Hidden: A Gender*) has been demonstrating with stories of gender prestidigitation. The refusal of Kate — who was once Richard — to be confined by the destiny of her gender illuminates what George Bernard Shaw called Creative Evolution.

Natural Instincts

That brings us, finally, to the

Berkeley Repertory Theatre's swell new production of *Man and Superman*. And don't think that competitive sperm and male causation of lesbianism have nothing to do with it. Shaw may have been hopelessly heterosexual, but in playing with "natural" instinct, and — he hoped — our ability to rise above it, he got pretty universal.

Shaw's Creative Evolution is the ability to transcend sexuality, in which the transformation of sexual energy leads to a higher consciousness. If nature calls us to mate, if we cannot resist, as happens to even the most idealistic character in Shaw's play, then we can at least be gotten on our own terms. Which, with a little forethought, can propel us to a higher consciousness for the betterment of man.

Shaw described this age-old battle of the sexes in what he called "a comedy and a philosophy." The comedy is the



J. Michael Flynn in *Man and Superman*.

(Photo: Ken Friedman)

entertaining tale of Ann's pursuit of Jack, who is of course caught long before he knows it.

It's his attempt to define love in cosmic terms, to make a philosophy and a course of action out of it, that allow for Shaw's famous theatrical arguments, sprinkled liberally throughout the play, and most specifically in the dream sequence known as "Don Juan in Hell," in which Don Juan/Jack and the Devil debate the qualities of man.

Shaw provides equal artillery to all sides, with the Devil in particular getting some persuasive and disturbing arguments. But Shaw's Creative Evolution, assuming the unlimited improvability of

humankind, comes down to faith in man. It's an active faith, though, not a passive one, in which theory is born to be acted upon. Words — which in this production cover the walls, a backdrop to the action — must be lived out.

If Shaw finds progressive ways to illuminate tradition — his characters do ultimately ratify love and marriage — then so do we. Lesbians are having babies. Gay men are exploring the intersection of spirituality, sexuality and even mortality in ways never expected. What of drag? Transgenderism? Hey — this is Creative Evolution, and gay people have always been its forefront.

Shaw at His Cleverest

Serious topics, yes. That's why Shaw wrote in his cleverest mode, and *Man and Superman* is funny, unusually entertaining, and still ahead of its time. Written in 1903 and premiered in 1905, Shaw's play is strikingly contemporary — with a little help from dramaturge Amlin Gray, who has prepared the Rep's 3 1/2 hour version of the five-hour

(Continued on page 46)

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Friendly Advice

(Continued from page 29)

Always outspoken, Mr. Sonbert, who occasionally writes about film for the B.A.R., took folks as diverse as Woody Allen, Ernest Hemingway and the great Russian director Sergei Eisenstein to task, which might seem a nervy proposition until one has seen this artist's work: the man knows his stuff.

★ ★ ★

Let's begin by continuing a conversation you started in the Bay Area Reporter in March with your piece, "Film and the Gay Touch." Who's making films now that display a gay sensibility as opposed to simply presenting gay material?

Almodovar leaps to mind immediately. Even though the subject matter is not specifically gay, he's openly gay and it shows through in the work's insouciance. Or with Gus Van Sant in *Drugstore Cowboy* it's the same thing. There's nothing particularly gay but there's a liberated and explorative, playful, mischievous, other way of looking at the world that comes across even though the subject matter isn't gay.

And it's because these artists are gay?

Yeah, I think that's why. I would tend to say that when you think of other heterosexual mainstream filmmakers who are out there today, they're just more closed-in, reined-in, in many ways. It's hard to think of — well, Fellini would be the main exception — somebody

who unleashes all his fantasies, fears and craziness.

I don't feel that way about Woody Allen, who when he tries to do something like that is merely imitating people like Bergman.

How does your "gay sensibility" operate in your work?

I've been making films since I was a teenager, so it isn't conscious at all, but I approach the

world.

Of course in the film [*Friendly Witness*] the idea is for straights as well to be children, to retain a child's freedom, that embarrassment of riches about what you want to do with your life and what your options really are.

To me the identification with children is with exuberance. They haven't been tamed, they haven't fallen into a rut yet.

In my film *The Cup and the Lip* (1987) children always represent — and cats do as well — anarchy. You can't predict what they're going to do next. There's

no way you can count on them, which is part of their double-edged quality.

I want to stop you for a second because you talk about you being the "child" and that being part of the gay sensibility, which is in a way turning on its head the whole notion of homosexuality as being a state of arrested development. You're really saying that's a purer state or at least something positive.

Yes. I think you can actually look at it very positively. I've

homosexual writers — he was talking at the time about Tennessee Williams in particular, but in the course of his discussion made a generalization — are essentially flawed because of their homosexuality. Algren said he sensed in gay writers a "coldness" and a detachment from the world that you seem to be assigning to certain heterosexual ones.

When you say that homosexual artists are cold and glacial and sterile, I really don't know what they're talking about. I mean do you feel that way about Walt Whitman? Who can get more celebratory of life than he does? Or Michelangelo with the Sistine ceiling? It's filled with all the possibilities of life there are. So I don't see a closed-in attitude at all.

When you look at George Cukor's work — 50 films — you get a complete look at the universe. He made westerns, fight dramas, films about fascism — it's not just the comedies. He gets identified as a light director, but there's more to his work.

There is a suicide in just about every Cukor film. It's almost a calling card. If you think about *Justine*, *Edward My Son*, *A Star is Born*, *What Price Hollywood?*, *Dinner at Eight*. These comedies all have a serious undertone. You can't pigeonhole Cukor. There's a richness to his work that I identify with the best in "gay" art.

In your B.A.R. piece a few months ago you wrote about the gay sensibility as it relates to film style. You compared what you called the "closed" montage of the gay director Eisenstein — an approach you pooh-poohed — to the "opened" approach of the gay director Murnau. You use the very form of your films to reinforce your notions of how we should participate in the construction of our individual worlds.

There was a particular reason I put down Eisenstein in the piece. He's very propagandistic, very didactic. He'll have a politician who's on the outs with the party. So he cuts from the politician to something like a peacock preening. It's very obvious what he's up to. Sometimes the peacock's even in the room! (Laughs) So he gives you A plus B equals C — and only C.

That kind of stuff I find very fascistic. It's the worst kind of Eisensteinian montage.

In my films, instead of closing it in, I like to open it out. In the film *Nobless Oblige* (1981), there's a scene in the Harvey Milk parade and a lot of people are crying and you see these tears. And then it cuts to an image of body torso, a guy pouring champagne.

What does this cut mean? On one level you could say it's like slapping — my cuts are almost like slaps in the face — you get one reality, but then, no, this next scene cancels, trumps it, by another kind of reality. So we have a tragedy at night, but then instead of having a close-up we have a mid-torso shot in the daytime and instead of mourning, we have celebration.

There's also something carrying over from the two images as well, the whole thing as

(Continued on page 47)



Scene from Warren Sonbert's *Friendly Witness*, which plays this year's S.F. Film Festival.

world in two ways.

One is a sort of Proustian way of looking at the world, and the other is more of a childish way of looking at the world.

To me, to become an adult means to become straight. I have to maybe clarify this, but when they take away your craziness, or your enthusiasm, or your passion, then you join the straight, adult, closed-in

way you can count on them, which is part of their double-edged quality.

And yet as the *The Cup and the Lip* unravels it becomes darker and darker and in one of the last shots we see of children, they're dressed in Boy Scout uniforms and they're marching in a kind of line, so they become like all of the people in uniforms in the film, with this kind of fascistic,

always been happy and content and satisfied with myself and who I am. I'm not bragging, about this, but I've never been to a shrink. I like who I am. I like my neuroses. I like my craziness. (Laughs) That's what I mean about holding onto being a kid.

But I wouldn't think of it as being limited to the sexual choices in the sense of the act. If you think of it that way it

To me the identification with children is with exuberance. They haven't been tamed, they haven't fallen into a rut yet.

could lead you astray. So I really think of it as an attitude about the world. When you look at the great artists — you feel that kind of chameleon quality, the idea that they can go any way — it's what gives them omniscience — and this gives them a more complete way of looking at the world. It's not rigid.

If you read Hemingway, he's unbelievably locked in and boring — totally repressed and hiding behind this macho false image. It's "bad faith" in the sense that Sartre meant it all the way, and you can see his own limitations because of his pronounced heterosexuality, which itself has been called into question of late.

But I wouldn't wish it, for him to turn out to have been gay. It'd blow my whole theory. (Laughs) It would be detrimental to all those great gay artists who are out there. (Brief pause) I suppose that's chauvinistic, but that's how I feel.

It's funny you should say that about Hemingway because his pal Nelson Algren once said he felt that all

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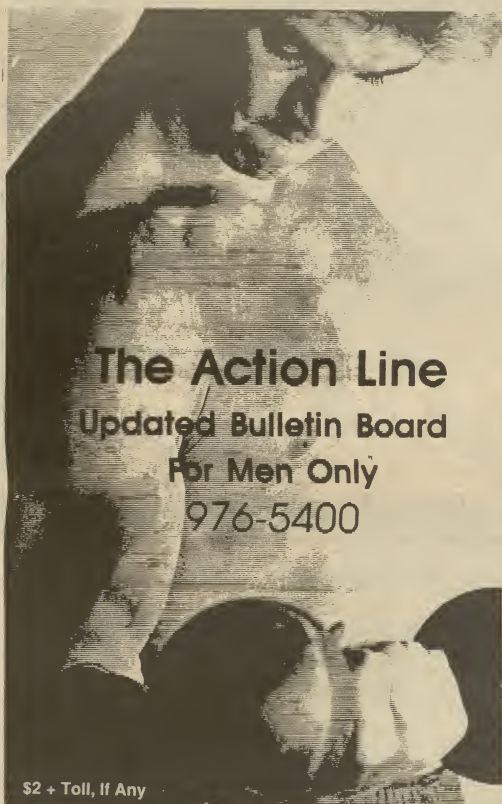
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Eric Politzer (No. 21) of Rolo scores on a slide to help his team defeat Uncle Bert's Brats.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

Rolo Spanks Brats; 'Roos Win

by Rick Ritt

After falling behind 2-0, Rolo scored 16 runs as they spanked Uncle Bert's Brats 16-3 to take control of the B Division.

The game turned around abruptly in the top of the third with Rolo trailing 2-1. In that inning, Rolo came up with seven runs, the big blow a three-run homer to left field by Eric Politzer.

After grabbing an 8-2 lead, Rolo pitcher Denis Geoffrey, shut the door, limiting the Brat's bats while Rolo was able to score eight more times over the next four innings.

The win gives Rolo sole possession of first place in the B Division with a 5-0 record. The loss drops the Brats into second place with a 4-1 record.

'Roos Topple Stud

In the most exciting contest of the day, the Rainbow 'Roos used several Stud miscues in the final inning to score three times to take an 11-10 come-from-behind victory.

The win evened the 'Roos record at 2-2, while the Puppies held onto third place despite the loss.

The Corral earned their first victory of the season by defeating the Cafe Sn Marcos 6-0 in a game where the wind played havoc with many a fly ball.

The Pilsner Inn Penguins put themselves in a position for a showdown with the Bombers next week by sweeping a doubleheader. In the opener, the Penguins scored early and often to defeat the SF Eagle 17-3.

Their second opponent proved a bit tougher, but behind a fine pitching performance by Joe Ross and a clutch two run single by Max Gilmore, they were able to defeat the Pendulum Pirates 7-1.

The two wins by the Pilsner raised their record to 4-1, good for second place, one game behind the division leaders. Speaking of the division leaders, the Uncle Bert's/Sweet Inspiration Bombers

won their fifth consecutive game by blasting the Rawhide II 13-1. Steve Sturnfeld was outstanding on the mound in limiting the potent Ranchhand attack.

Burgermen Beat Meats

In the battle for 2nd place in the C Division, Hot n' Hunky/The Mint outlasted Rossi's Meats Rookies 12-4. The victory gave the Burgermen a 4-1 record, good for second place one game behind the division leading Pendulum Bucs, whom they will meet next week.

The second consecutive loss for the Rookies dropped them to third place with a 3-2 record.

The Rainbow 'Toos were the second team of the day to earn their first victory as they defeated Group Therapy. The Pendulum Bucs were able to keep their record unblemished as they were able to easily defeat Cassidy's Cabinettes.

In the only Women's Division action on the schedule,

(Continued on page 42)

Sponsor's Death Saddens Sports Groups

Hector Romo, an eager, active sponsor of both pool and softball teams as well as numerous other philanthropic causes was lost to us last week. Hector took a lot of pride in the creation of a classy social atmosphere at his showplace tavern, the Cafe San Marcos, which seems more like a country estate's playroom than a Castro district bar.

His pool teams include the Cafe Quackers, which delivered last season's City and West Coast Challenge Championships, breaking a five-season S.F. drought at the state competition. Contrary to current rumors, the San Marcos staff has assured the B.A.R. that the Cafe will remain open for business.

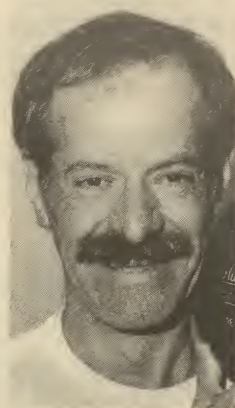
Home Stretch

Just four drama-soaked weeks remain as the S.F. Pool

Association's 32 teams jockey for position in playoff seeding. Three weeks of interdivisional contests between equally ranked teams will be followed by a night of divisional play which will decide the 16 playoff contenders.

Division I's White Swallow Hunters reclaimed the league's second highest ranking by downing the previously unbeaten Overpassers on their home table 10-6. Bernard Bayaca and David Lee produced twin 4-0s for the victors, who stretched their Divisional lead to 19 games. Their performance in this week's showdown with the Quackers will have major effects on the playoff seeding picture.

The Cinch Shooting Stars moved to within one game of overtaking second place Transfer Derailers with an 11-5



Hector Romo contributed much to community.

shocking of San Marcos Maneuvers behind Antonio Rios' 4-0. In Division II vs. IV action, the White Swallow International continue to shed their "B" team image as they

(Continued on next page)

No Time Like Present

by Kitty Tsui

K.C. Frogge is a singer/songwriter who will be going to her first Gay Games to participate in not one, not two, but three events: discus, javelin and bowling.

Frogge is a Midwesterner who came out to San Francisco in 1986. She went to school at Central Missouri State University as a physical education major and took up numerous track and field events including shotput and javelin. Bowling was something she had been doing since she was 14 years old, when "Mom decided we had to do something else on Saturdays besides drive her nuts!"

Frogge was on the Varsity Bowling Team in college and continued bowling with a league formed at Western Electric where she worked on the night shift.

'Just Do It'

This athlete was inspired to participate in Gay Games III after she attended last year's Apex Awards. At that time she was working as a word processor at a law firm and was getting overweight. She was over 300 lbs. and made a resolution to lose some weight and get back into athletics.

"I figured I wanted to get back into some track and field events," she says. "So I said to myself, there's no time like the present; I might not get this chance again so I might as well do it now. One of the things that's helped me in my training is the phrase that Nike has made famous: 'Just Do It!'"

"When I'm tempted to skip a workout or eat something I'm not supposed to, I see those three words and remember that 'Just Do It' means: go to the Games."

Frogge joined a diet program that teaches one how to cook to both loose weight and eat in a healthy way. She is now under 250 lbs. and expects to compete in her events in Vancouver at a competition weight of around 225.

"It was also important for me to lose that weight so that when I go on stage to perform I'm not tripping over my feet. I didn't feel good when I had all that extra weight. I've got a lot more energy now."

Currently, Frogge works out with the San Francisco Track and Field Club and bowls with the team that won the gold at Gay Games II. "I was flattered to be asked to bowl with Sarah Lewinstein, Bernice Staud and Mel Coyle. They're good



K.C. Frogge will compete in three Gay Games activities.

(Photo: Rick Gerharter)

athletes and good sports. I'm real fortunate to be part of a team that has that much magnetism and talent."

In college, Frogge was a shotputter, but when she started having problems with her right shoulder, she took up extension events, discus and javelin throwing. "I was big and strong and liked throwing things!" she laughs

Supportive Lover

"My lover, Barbara, and I have been together for five years. She's not athletic and hates sports but she's real supportive of my being a jock. Especially since I've dropped the weight, because she knows how important it is for my

health."

As Barbara has just started her own business, the two of them are living on one income so Frogge will be travelling to Vancouver alone.

"I have a 10 lb. pet duck named Buddy so Barb will be staying home to take care of her."

Frogge has been a singer and a songwriter for 10 years. She started out as a poet but when she picked up a guitar, "one of my poems turned into a song." In the early 1980s she was a member of the board of directors of the Kansas City Songwriters' Association.

At the moment she is taking both voice lessons and guitar

lessons with Judy Friedman so that she can learn more about music theory. Frogge also likes to write parody. "I really enjoy taking a song and twisting the shit out of it," says Frogge, who's done five parodies so far and plans to do more.

Frogge is a member of G.A.W.K., the Gay Artists and Writers Collective. She will be performing at the Artemis Cafe on May 25. At the end of our conversation she said:

"They say if you can dream it, you can do it and that's kept me going. Never loose sight of the dream. Oh, and I love to dance. One day I'm going to dance my ass off somewhere and leave it there!"

Pool

(Continued from previous page)

matched their sister team's 8-8 effort vs. the league-leading Cafe Quackers. The league's four table runs of the night's competition were all produced at this one match and three of them were signed, sealed and delivered by Quacker ace, E.Z. "Know which one was the easiest?" he riddled. "The one I didn't get!"

The game in question featured the dramatically improved Robby Nath running seven and missing the 8-ball, leaving Zalta a tantalizing morsel of a table. In mid-run he missed a routine, nearly straight-in shot. "I tried to cheat the pocket but it cheated me back," he quipped.

It was the first three-run night since the fall of '84 when E.Z. matched Peter Fleury's league record set the previous season.

Another key Division IV race involves Overpass Tod-

dlers moving to within one game of Cinch We First Met, currently in second place, 25 games behind the Quackers. Both teams are "cinches" to make the playoffs but their final averages determine playoff seeding, a crucial ingredient to their hopes for success.

High Cutoff

If the playoffs were based on today's averages the cutoff level would be .506, allowing four teams from Divisions I and IV, three from Division II and five from Division III. Three teams are in easy range to displace one of the lower-ranked hopefuls. They include Cinchgespielers (.481), Giraffe Gigolos (.479), and Isn't That Special (.481). Down, but not out, are Francine's Freestylers and Bear Handed.

Congratulations to Lisa Duncan, now top-rated individual of the league's 151 rated players at 28-6. The interdivisional play is taking its toll as first place team members shoot each other down. Only three of the current top seven are on first place teams in their respective divisions.

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Team Standings Through Week 10

DIVISION ONE

	W	L
White Swllw Hunters	110	50
Transfer Derailers	91	69
Cinch Shooting Stars	90	70
Park Bowl	82	78
Amelia's Furies	71	89
Uncle Bert's Wild Wmn	70	90
Francine's Fanatics	65	95
Castro Station Raiders	59	101

DIVISION THREE

	W	L
Overpassers	109	51
Cinchseerly Yours	93	67
Sn Marcos Maneuvers	84	76
L'Equipe Detour	83	77
Special Effects	81	79
Emperor's Knights	69	91
Bear Et. Al	65	95
Pilsner Shill	59	101

DIVISION TWO

	W	L
White Swllw Internatl	94	66
Castro Station Express	91	69
Uncle Bert's Barflys	89	71
Cinchgespielers	77	83
Giraffe Gigolos	69	75
Francine's Freestylers	73	87
Transfer Ballbusters	70	90
Amelia's	68	92

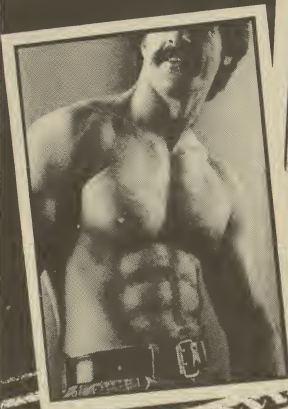
DIVISION FOUR

	W	L
Sn Marcos Quackers	114	46
Cinch We 1st Met	89	71
Overpass Toddlers	88	72
Detour Destroyers	73	71
Isn't That Special	77	83
Bear Handed	73	87
Pilsner Inn and Out	67	93
Phone Booth Linemen	52	108

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Ten-Pin Tidbits from JTown

by Will Snyder

Holy Moses! Did we miss one earlier in this column. And, the teammates of Steve Moses parted a few Red Seas to point this out to this writer. Moses bowls on the Bottom of the Bucket team in the Wednesday Community League. Steve's a good, solid, consistent kegler who never seems to get too flashy with his bowling, but he also never seems to have a bad night, either.

On April 4, Moses' teammate, David Tangredi rolled a 637 series. That was duly noted in this column. On the same night, Moses bowled his usual, steady, reliable 182 and 197.

But while this writer's back was turned, Steve rolled a 257 and finished with a 636 series. When reviewing the sheets for that Wednesday night league, a 636 series completely slipped by us.

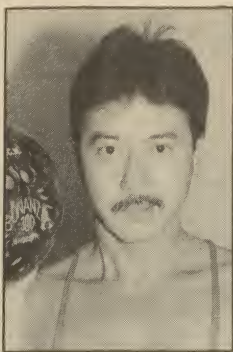
Guess I need to get more carrots in my diet instead of carrot cake. The April 25 Wednesday league and April 24 Tuesday league produced a couple of other fun scores. One was a 200-plus, the other wasn't. But the joy produced by both scores was what makes this game fun.

Khris Neal rolled his best game ever, a 215, for the Luney Toons. The fun and happiness

in his voice for this accomplishment was something you'll hear at many bowling establishments when regular keggers, who aren't always mentioned in columns such as these, crack into the "Big List" with a good game.

Tanya Woods pondered whether she should bowl at all on April 24. For weeks, she had been sidelined with a painful injury to her thumb. But she wanted to bowl badly that night.

So, she gave it a try. In her second game, she scored a solid 165 count. The pride in her voice and the beam in her eye actually should have been



Ed Wang broke 200 last week.

worth an extra 100 pins. One wishes at times that those who complain about bowling "only" a 200 instead of something much higher could sit in on something like Tanya's game. Way to go, T.J.

For those who have pondered going to Vancouver for Gay Games, there are still trips available. The cost for the trip, which includes hotel and air fare, is \$630.77. A Passage to Adventure travel agency, which has handled the entire trip for Japantown Bowl, may be reached at 558-8919. Ask for David Magennis or Steve Miller.

Here are the 200-plus games and the 600-plus series for the Japantown Bowl Community Leagues for April 16 through 30:

Monday Community/Gay Games League, April 16: Bob Johnson (137) 211; Tim Kneis (180) 204.

Tuesday Community League, April 17: Paul Haworth (154) 211; Shawn Christman (159) 213; Ken Gray (183) 207; Allen Neitzke (182) 200; Jeff Dorsey (156) 206; Tim Mulvenon (191) 243, 203, 204, 650 series; Randy Peterson (183) 208; Ron Gambell (192) 221.

Wednesday Community League, April 18: David Tangredi (196) 218, 236, 651 series; Jesse Vargas (163) 205; Rudy Maglenty (165) 204.

Friday Community League, April 20: Efen Sendieta (164) 224.

Sunday Reno League, April 22: Doug Victor (145) 210; Peter Cataldo (143) 230; Mike Sieckarek (156) 227.

Monday Community/Gay Games League, April 23: Chuck Adkins (179) 213; Ed Wang (154) 203; Todd Brooks (185) 207; Michael Huang (160) 223; Travis Plunk (121) 206; Charles Daniels (165) 200.

Tuesday Community League, April 24: Tim Mulvenon (192) 213, 222, 620 series; Ron Tisdell (160) 204; Richard Cooper (178) 216, 204, 616 series; Allen Neitzke (182) 228; Robert Martin (140) 204.

Wednesday Community League, April 25: Chuck Boehm (155) 203; Robert Bennett (152) 215; Rudy Iranon (165) 204; Todd Brooks (185) 200; Pete Czech (156) 226; Steve Moses (171) 200; David Tangredi (197) 211; Khris Neal (144) 215; Neale Grasham (138) 206; Doug Lucas (155) 226.

Sunday Reno League, April 29: Richard Jones (179) 212. ▼

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Rolo Spanks Brats

(Continued from page 40)

Amelia's and the Women's Traveller kept their record perfect at 5-0 as they easily defeated Athenia Electric 17-1. The Women's Division will take next weekend off for sun and fun at the Russian River during Women's weekend.

League Notes

Those fundraisers keep coming. The Mint/Hot n' Hunky will have a beer bust on Saturday, June 2. Cost is \$5 and tickets are available from any Burgerman.

Uncle Bert's Brats will be having their annual Italian dinner on June 9. Dinner includes pasta, salad, garlic bread and wine, all for \$5.

One fundraiser the GSL should support is the Shanti

Project's A Date with the Giants, Saturday, July 7. For more information, see Holly Smith, who can usually be found watching almost all the Rainbow 'Toos and 'Roos games. Remember May 19 — Amateur Night. Get those acts ready!

This week the G.S.L. invades a new locale — Kimball Field, which is located at Geary and Steiner. Good advice: keep your valuables at home and clean out your car because it might be cleaned out for you.

Key matchups are in the A and C Divisions as the Bombers meet the Penguins and the Bucs meet the Burgermen, each for the lead in their respective divisions. ▼

GAY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Team Standings

A DIVISION				C DIVISION			
	W	L		W	L		
U.B./S.I. Bombers	5	0		Pendulum Bucs	5	0	
Pilsner Penguins	4	1		Hot 'n' Hunky/The Mint	4	1	
Rawhide II Ranchhands	3	3		Rossi's Meats Rookies	3	2	
Pendulum Pirates	1	2		Cassidy's Cabinettes	2	4	
SF Eagle	0	7		Rainbow 'Toos	1	4	
				Group Therapy	1	5	
B DIVISION				WOMEN'S DIVISION			
	W	L			W	L	
Rolo	5	0		Amelia's/Women's Travl	5	0	
U.B. Brats	4	1		Galleon	3	1	
Stud Puppies	4	2		Cafe Sn Marcos	1	4	
Rainbows 'Roos	2	2		Athenia Electric	1	5	
Corral	1	4					
Pilsner Pistons	0	3					
Cafe Sn Marcos	0	4					

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Dianne Aaronson will MC "Preview to Physique '90 and Gay Games III."

Sports Calendar

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society

Sunday, May 6: "Preview to Physique '90 and Gay Games III," an evening of musical entertainment and posing demonstrations by men and women bodybuilders competing in Vancouver. Gold medalist Dianne Aaronson will emcee. 7 p.m. \$5. Upsatirs at Amelia's, 647 Valencia, SF.

SF Slammers

Women's basketball practice Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at The Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood. Susan, 824-4697.

Men's Basketball Organization

Practice on Sundays, 6-8 p.m., at the Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood. Tony, 621-2710.

Tavern Guild Bowling League

For info call Mal, 752-2366.

SF Women's Business Bowling League

Bowl Sundays, 6 p.m. at Park Bowl, 1855 Haight. Ann, 337-6721.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club

Tuesday and Friday practices, 7-9 p.m., at the Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood. All skill levels welcome. Gene, 821-2991.

SF Wrestling Club

All forms & styles of wrestling; all ages, weights welcome. Call 538-8490 or 821-9721.

Women's Flag Football

Sunday, May 6: SF's first-ever women's flag football league begins play at Louis Sutter Field at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Michelle Brodie, 563-4722.

Volleyball Club

Sundays, 8 p.m., at the Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood. All skill levels welcome. Mike, 626-4743.

Gay Volleyball

Every Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., in the school yard at 18th St. & Dehara. All welcome, including beginners. Jay, 864-0257.

Gay Softball League

Sunday, May 6: Games beginning at 9:30 a.m. Len, 864-3220.

Bay Area Racquetball Club

Sundays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Schoeber's Athletic Club, South SF. All skill levels welcome. Wref, 626-7758.

Gay Tennis Federation

For info call Michael, 431-1721.

Birds of a Feather Badminton

Practice on Mondays, 7-9 p.m., and Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m., at French American School gym, 200 Buchanan. Pat, 626-4950.

SF Spikes

Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at West Sunset Soccer Fields, 40th Ave. & Ortega, and Thursdays at 8 p.m. at Moscone Field, Chestnut & Laguna. Carlo, 821-4248.

Saga North Ski Club

For info call SAGA, 995-2772.

X-Ta-C Cross Country Ski Club

For info call Jim or Trudy, 995-2736.

Tsunami Gay/Lesbian Swim Team

Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, at King Pool, 3rd St. & Carrol. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30-9 p.m., at Hamilton Pool, Geary & Steiner. Laurie, 255-9091, or Johnny, 626-0561.

SF Water Polo

Practices Thursday evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and Saturday mornings, 9-10:30 a.m., at Coffman Pool, corner of Visitacion and Hahn, SF. Men & women of all skill levels welcome. John, 621-07831.

SF FrontRunners

Tuesday Fun Runs: 6:30 p.m., Ferry Bldg, Embarcadero; no-host dinner follows. Thursday Fun Runs: 6:30 p.m., McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park; no-host dinner follows. Sunday Fun Runs: 10 a.m., location to be announced. Rod, 621-2213.

EastBay FrontRunners

Saturday, May 5: Lafayette-Moraga Trail-Walnut Creek. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in Pleasant Hill. Roz, 939-3579, or Greg, 865-6792.

Long Runners

For info call Dave, 626-1380.

Different Spokes Bicycle Club

Organized rides each weekend. All levels welcome. Decide-and Rides each Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m., McLaren Lodge, Stanyan & Oak Sts., Golden Gate Park. PO Box 14711, SF 94114. Weekly schedule: 282-1647.

SF Hiking Club

Sunday, May 6: Oakland City Hike. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the Paramount Theatre on the west side of Broadway just north of the north end of the 19th Street BART Station. Bring lunch or buy along the way. Quentin, 836-0725.

SF Track & Field

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. and Sundays, 10:30 a.m. at SF State University track, 1600 Holloway. All skill levels welcome. Rick, 626-8784.

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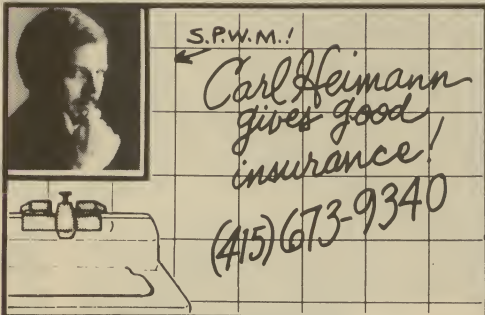
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THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 4

- **Screw:** DJs Lewis & Mike, crucial music alteration space, videos, bar dancers, confusions. Progressive drink prices. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$1.496 Guerrero/14th St., SF.
- **El Rio:** DJ Clayton (5-8 p.m. Happy Hour), DJ Cory Iwatsu (10 p.m.-2 a.m.). No cover. 3158 Mission. 282-3325.
- **Cynthia Bythell:** Sings showtunes & showstoppers with director & pianist Donald Wescoat and vocalist Mikio Hirata, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover. The Blue Muse, 409 Gough, SF. 626-7505.
- **Golden Gate Men's Chorus:** Concerts featuring the music of a variety of classic European composers. May 4 & 5 at 8 p.m. and May 6 at 2:30 p.m. \$10 adv. at Headlines, Castro; \$12 at door. MCC Church, 150 Eureka, SF. 626-2883.
- **Components of Ballroom & Latin Dance:** Tango, 7-8:30 p.m., and Foxtrot, 8:15-10 p.m., taught by Gene Russo. \$9/class, \$45 adv./five classes, \$80 adv./ten classes. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission, SF. 775-5732.
- **Lesbian & Gay Parents:** 7:30 p.m. meeting at First Presbyterian Church of San Raphael, 1510 5th, San Raphael. Children welcome, childcare provided.
- **Gay Men's Group Oil Massage:** Touch & be touched. Non-sexual. 7:30-10 p.m., arrive by 7:30 p.m. \$10. 552 Castro B, SF. Bruce, 626-2026.

SATURDAY 5

- **I-Beam:** High Energy & House Music, plus sexy, young studs take it off at 10:30 p.m. & 12 a.m. \$5, free w/pass. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 1748 Haight, SF. 668-6023.
- **Club Euphoria:** Saturday nights at the Crystal Pistol, 842 Valencia/19th St., SF. New Beat, Rap, '70s with DJs Lewis & Greg. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$2 cover.
- **Colossus:** Saturdays double dance room variety — DJ Hosh Gurell spins House, DJ King Raffi spins '70s. 9:30 p.m., after hours dancing. \$8, 21+. 1015 Folsom/6th, SF. 431-BOYS.
- **Folsom Follies '90 Cast Party:** Follies '90 video premiere at 8 p.m. SF Eagle, 12th St. & Harrison.
- **Clean & Sober Dance for Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth (23-):** Sponsored by Lavender Youth Recreation & Info Center (LYRIC). 8 p.m.-Midnight. \$4. Women's Bldg, 3543 18th St./Valencia, SF. 531-4612.
- **Cinco De Mayo Party:** An Imperial & Royal 1990 float benefit. 10 p.m. \$3, gets comp. well drink or beer. New Peter Pan Lounge, 45 Turk, SF.
- **Free Legal Clinic For The Lesbian & Gay Community:** Meet with attorneys from the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. 2-4 p.m. Hosted by the Patio Cafe (sign up in front of Hibernia Bank).
- **Softball for Lesbian & Gay Youth:** Saturdays, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at Big Rec. Field, Lincoln & 6th Ave., SF (weather permitting). Bring softball equipment if possible. 658-6912.

SUNDAY 6

- **I-Beam:** Sunday T-dance. Male dancers at 8, 9 & 10 p.m. 5 p.m.-2 a.m. \$4, \$3 w/pass. 1748 Haight. 668-6023.
- **Club Uranus:** DJs Mike & Lewis. \$2 w/pass, \$3 w/o. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 401 Harrison & 6th St., SF.
- **El Rio:** Orquesta Guayacan (Cuban). 4-8 p.m. \$7. 3158 Mission, SF. 282-3325.
- **Bench & Bar:** Variety Show at 10 p.m. Preceded by CW dancing, free chili & hot dogs at 7 p.m. 120 11th St., Oakland. 444-2266.
- **Preview to Physique '90 and Gay Games III:** Posing by gay & lesbian bodybuilders, entertainment and good, clean fun! See listing in Sports Calendar in the Sports & Fitness Section.
- **Ansel Adams Center:** John Baldessari, Nayland Blake & Jeff Luck will discuss the nature of Baldessari's new set design for Bertolt Brecht's play *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui*. 7:30 p.m. Free. Seating limited. 250 4th St., SF. 495-8517.
- **Freedom Day Parade & Celebration Committee:** Board of Directors meeting, 2 p.m. General Membership, an open community meeting, 5 p.m. Become a voting member by attending two of three consecutive meetings. 1519 Mission, SF. 864-FREE.

• **Gay Fathers:** Monthly potluck supper with topic, "Coming Out to Kids." 5:30 p.m. Support for gay & bisexual men, newcomers welcome. 821-9241.

• **Lesbian & Gay Hortiphiles:** Guided tour of Bernal Heights gardens in SF. 1 p.m. Bring plants for auction. Newcomers welcome. Michael, 826-2515, or Henrietta, (408) 246-1117.

MONDAY 7

- **I-Beam:** The Chilis, 11th Dream Day. 10:30 p.m. \$8 adv. 1748 Haight, SF. 668-6023.
- **Bi Friendly SF Night Out:** Castro restaurant. Meet others for dinner and conversation. Pierre, 753-0687.
- **Are You a Lesbian Gay or Bisexual Korean?:** Informal get togethers monthly. Conducted primarily in English with some bilingual participants. Lori, 563-8689.
- **Duplicate Bridge Game:** 7 p.m. open game at Quicktricks Bridge Club at MCC Church, 150 Eureka. 285-5155.

TUESDAY 8

- **Paint It Black:** A painted leather jacket party featuring Jackson Saints and Suicide Shake. 10 p.m. \$3. DNA Lounge, 375 11th St., SF. 626-2532.
- **Artists Access to Activism:** Performs with the homeless in front of City Hall with Food Not Bombs. Join us in the process of continuing liberation. Tuesdays, Noon-4 p.m. "Right On" Tom, 641-7378.
- **Gay Men's Sketch:** Classical nude modeling by bodybuilder and SF Eagle Bare Chest Calendar winner Jim Rueth. 2 min. gestures to a 40 min. pose. 7-10 p.m. \$12. 1229 Folsom, SF. Reservations, 621-6294.
- **Gay & Lesbian Employees of Hewlett-Packard:** Meeting for those interested in participating in the Awareness Project survey. Call 329-0809 or (408) 252-9986.
- **Duplicate Bridge Game:** 7 p.m. Limited to newer players at Quicktricks Bridge Club at MCC Church, 150 Eureka. 285-5155.

WEDNESDAY 9

- **El Rio:** Comics Dianne Amos, Lank & Earl, Lisa Geduldig, Kim Worth. 9 p.m. \$5. 3158 Mission, SF. 282-3325.
- **Female Trouble:** Thursday's Child. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$2-3. 1821 Haight, SF.



• **East:** Industrial Strength Productions presents dramatist Stephen Berkoff's savage attack on the class system that eliminates opportunity and hope from Britain's poor. Thru May 20, plays Thu-Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m. Capp St. Center, 362 Capp St., SF. 526-8622.

WEEK

• **Seniors!** A new musical about a social worker and six seniors in a housing development. Thru May 20, plays Wed. & Sun. at 2:30 p.m. and Thu-Sat. at 8 p.m. \$6-10. Talespinners Theater in Studio Eremos, 401 Alabama, SF. 621-8875.

• **Congregation Sha'ar Zahav:** "Israel: Challenge of the 1990s" discussion series. Topic: Life for gay and lesbian Israelis. \$3-15. 7:30 p.m. Synagogue library, 220 Danvers/Caselli, SF. Registration, 861-6932.

• **East Bay Nude Figure Drawing Sessions:** Wednesdays, 7-10 p.m. \$10/session, monthly rates available. 217 5th St./Jackson, Oakland. 465-7382.

HOT TIPS



NIGHTCLUB SPECTACLE

• **SIN CITY, An Evening of Taboo Breaking Mayhem:** Multi-staged, multi-musical non-stop performances punctuated with a wild mix of campbeat dance music sounds. Connie Champagne, Doris Fish, Phillip R. Ford, The Human Volcano, Juan the Snake Dancer, Bambi & The Exterminating Angel are just a few of the guest performers. May 10. 9 p.m. \$7. DNA Lounge, 375 11th St., SF. 588-8112.

MUSIC BENEFIT

• **Save the I-Beam Jam:** Raise money to cover legal expenses related to fighting revocation of the I-Beam's dance hall permit. Come see & hear Chris Isaak, Kenny Dale Johnson, Primus, Limbomaniacs, Smoking Section, Ted Zeppelin, The Sneeches, Tooth & Nail, Frightwig, Penelope Houston, Fungo Mungo and more! May 4. 7 p.m. \$10 adv. 1748 Haight, SF. 668-6023.

AIDS BENEFIT

• **Jazz Marathon For Shanti:** Featuring some of the Bay Area's best jazz & blues artists: Denise Perrier, Graham Bruce & Ensemble, Max & Mona, Blues Per Square Inch, Danny Boy Foster and much more! May 6. 3-11 p.m. \$15, in & out privileges. New Delhi Restaurant, 160 Ellis, SF. 397-8470.

COMMUNITY EVENT

• **The Clean & Sober Women's Weekend:** Come join women for days and nights filled with music, comedy, dancing, crafts, fairs, sun & fun in Guerneville at the River Lane Resort. Produced & staffed entirely by and for women. May 4-6. \$10-15 at door. ASL interpreted, wheelchair access, childcare available. (707) 887-1455.

LITERARY READING

• **Author/Historian Allan Berube:** Berube talks about his new book *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two*. May 9. 7:30 p.m. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia, SF. 282-9246.



• **Turn of the Century Performing Arts & Cycling Posters:** An exhibition of vintage posters reflecting the diversity of popular entertainment and enthusiasm for bicycling in Europe and America nearly 100 years ago. Thru June 3 at Harris Gallery, 2842 Prince, Berkeley. 658-6609. Hours: Weekdays, 12-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

• **Legal Clinic for Gay & Lesbian Seniors (60+):** Discuss your legal needs with an attorney from Legal Assistance to the Elderly. Free. 10 a.m.-Noon. By appointment only, 626-7000.

• **Discovery:** A new men's discussion group for gay men 50 and older. Wednesdays, 2:15-4 p.m. Free. North of Market Senior Center, 333 Turk, SF. 626-7000.

• **Writer's Workshop for Senior Lesbians/Gay Men (50+):** 6-8 p.m. at 1853 Market, SF. 626-7000.

• **Bondage Buddies:** An informational/social group for gay men interested in bondage. Bob discusses and demonstrates leather body bags and other specialized gear. 8-10 p.m. \$7. 1229 Folsom, SF. 621-6394.

• **Men of All Colors Together Greater Bay Area:** MACT/BWMT AIDS Task Force meeting. 7-9 p.m. 3135 Courtland Ave., Oakland. Lee, 261-7922, or Sylvester, 474-5905.

• **Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG)/Marin County:** 7:30 p.m. 26 Kensington Ct., San Anselmo. 457-1115.

• **Freedom Day Parade & Celebration Committee:** Celebration meeting, 7 p.m., call 864-FREE for location.

THURSDAY 10

• **Leather Dance at Amelia's:** Dirty dancing contest and lambada demonstration. Opens at 9 p.m. \$4. 647 Valencia.

• **El Rio:** Cocktail Party with comedienne Theresa Holcomb, exotic dancer Mr. Gay SF Nova, female impersonator Amberson St. Claire, DJ Cory Iwatsu. Free. 3158 Mission, SF. 282-3325.

• **One-Act Plays By Bay Area Women Playwrights:** The Rasputin Theater Company presents Lee Brady, Marija Mrdjenovic, Salima Rashida, Jennifer Stone & Lynn Snyder. May 10-12 & 17-19 at 8:30 p.m. \$5-8. The LAB, 1805 Divisadero, SF. 346-4063.

• **Sins of the Empire of Passions:** The private domain of personal passion is explored in a program of interdisciplinary performance and dance by visual artist Douglas Rosenberg and choreographers Julie McDonald and Susan Branum. May 10-12 at 8:30 p.m. and May 13 at 3:30 p.m. The Folcruim, 475 Haight, SF. 621-4810.

• **Chaos:** Music-videos-lust! Industrial, New Beat, Rap—DJs Mike & Lewis. Thursdays, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$1. Crystal Pistol, 842 Valencia/19th St., SF.

• **Wet Jockey Shorts Contest at The Endup:** With Danny Williams & guests. \$25-100 in prizes. Stripper 9:30 p.m. sharp, contest 10:30 p.m. sharp. \$4. 6th & Harrison, SF.

• **Rainbow's End:** Marin County lesbian/gay youth project bi monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. 1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo. Ministry of Light offices. 457-1115.

• **Lambda Amateur Radio Club:** Meeting at 8 p.m. Gay/lesbian radio hams and friends. 863-1196.

• **Men of All Colors Together Greater Bay Area:** MACT/BWMT AIDS Task Force Playshop. 7-10 p.m. Cabal's Reef, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Lee, 255-8378, or Sylvester, 474-5905.

• **Older Gay Men's Friendship Group (60+):** Lively discussions and outings. 2:45-4 p.m. Free. Friendship Room, 711 Eddy, SF. 626-7000.



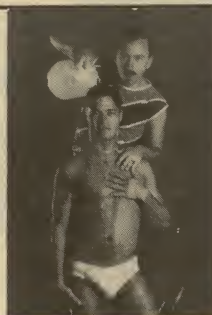
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E. White

(Continued from page 31)

English, on the level of Nabokov: if you can imagine that, you can imagine Genet's accomplishment. It's similar to Rimbaud's, isn't it?

In one way you can look at Genet as the Proust of the underclass because he uses so many of Proust's strategies, formulae, sociological approaches, especially in *Our Lady of the Flowers*. And of course they were both very, very daring in writing about homosexuality at all.

Which younger American writers do you admire?

I like Dennis Cooper very much, and I like Robert Glück here in San Francisco. They're two of my favorites, although they're very different. What's interesting is that they've shown gay literature doesn't need to stay realistic, that it can go in odd directions.

In Bob Glück's work, for instance, the gay material is so rich, so supple and so exciting that even when made extremely oblique, it retains that initial freshness and vitality.

Dennis doesn't seem caught up in the apologetics of gay writing. It seems to me that so many gay writers, myself included, still are haunted by the idea of some straight reader might be reading all this and getting the "wrong idea," so that we all tend to soft-pedal, to clean up our act, to revert to the gay literature of the '50s, which was always a plea for compassion and understanding.

What I like about Cooper's writing is that there's none of that in it: it's all about murdering boys and eating ass. Terrific.

In a 1987 article for *Artforum*, you wrote that "If art is to confront AIDS more honestly than the media have done, it must begin in tact, avoid humor and end in anger." The Canadian activist and filmmaker John Greyson has turned our statement on its head, insisting that art must "avoid tact and include humor." I wonder if you've changed your mind about any part of your *Artforum* statement — if your ideas, for example, on humor have changed?

At the time I was hearing a lot of straight jokes about AIDS, and that just drove me wild. I saw humor as a way of squelching rage, housebreaking it.

Shaw

(Continued from page 37)

script with appropriate cuts of dated references.

The show plays like a dream, with J. Michael Flynn a suitably flustered hero and Joan McMurtry a wiley force of nature. Charles Lanyer is a splendid and eloquent Devil, James Carpenter a dreamy poet, and Barbara Oliver a delectably droll mother. Hector Strickland, as a strapping young American suitor, is a strapping young actor with delicious red curls. Charles Dean, Judith Marx and Michael Winters offer strong support in cameos, and no one could miss the several handsome youths (Jeff Stafford) who play Brigands, servants, and scene changers.

There's a kind of drively, American humor, a kind of bland, giggling way of being on cozy terms with everything.

AIDS is a scandal, and it should be treated as a scandal. Domesticating AIDS through humor is deplorable, just as straight people making jokes about AIDS is detestable, and should be punished by castration or murder.

But in fact, when I wrote those stories that appear in *The Darker Proof*, it strikes me that they're all pretty funny. So I think that my practice hasn't followed my sermonette.

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I've just been made a member of the PEN Board, and the first thing I plan to bring up at my first meeting is to rally everyone against Jesse Helms' rewriting of the NEA guidelines, especially the clause that states that no money shall go to anyone who might represent homosexuality in a favorable light.

It's so humiliating that America is such a benighted state. I think it should be made an international issue.

I'm certainly not going to stop writing things because they might be censored. My books would be published in England, or in France, and then come out in America in a more favorable regime.

Or they'd be snuck in across the border the way we used to have to sneak in such books as *Lolita*, or *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. There's no way to stop people writing what they want to write.

As another local production of *Man and Superman* is unlikely in the near future, it's fortunate that this one is so good, crisp and colorful. Christopher Barreca's handsome scenic design could have draped the back wall of the stage; undampened, the theatre's bloom of sound makes work of listening. But here is Shaw in full bloom, and *Man and Superman* is in every way a provoking and entertaining proposition. "Cultivate a little impudence!" Shaw urges in his play, writing no small amount of it into his feisty dialogue. Yet we also see, most satisfyingly, how impudence refreshes tradition.

Man and Superman
The Berkeley Rep. Thru June 2;
845-4700

Friendly

(Continued from page 38)

water, stressing fluidity. But in each case it's not real water. One is a tear, the other is champagne, and the liquid carries things from moment to moment.

So here's an instance in which you have two shots up against one another, but instead of saying this is the answer — the only answer — there are several possible ways of looking at it. You can read it this way, as a collection of "up," beautiful images, or you can read it as a world gone crazy,

or a world gone mad or flying apart at the seams.

You have a way of undercutting the movement from one frame to the next, presenting a beautiful image, then pulling it away, but leaving a memory of it in the following shot. Is there a particular purpose to this?

People always say they would like to luxuriate in my images longer. They'd like them to be longer so they could pick and choose and bask in them. Sometimes the most beautiful images are among the shortest, because if they were longer they would undercut the art of it. By making

them shorter, the viewer has to do more work, but it also gives the beauty a tension it wouldn't have if the shot held forever.

Some filmmakers — here I go pointing fingers again (laughs) — tend to feel a sort of sanctity about every frame and they get a good image and say "Wow, isn't that great" and hold onto it. Whereas I tend to be more sadistic, yanking you away from it before you can actually be satisfied.

How do you compose your films?

I write out a shot list for every time. I compose my films as a written work.

So you're basically out collecting images and the films are scripted "after the fact."

Yes, but then after collecting images, I do get some shots that move things along in a particular way. When you do this, you're changing the genre, you're suggesting narrative, asking, well what are the tensions between these. I make my films for everybody. The more accessible the better, people or things. It's obviously all not off-the-cuff.

For what audience do you make your films?

As far as my films go, I make them for everybody. The more

accessible the better, and after all, the images I use are mostly in the "public domain" — street fairs, the rain falling on 21st Street, a market in Europe.

I'm not coming out of this weird world like Michael Snow or Hollis Frampton — people whose works I love. There are filmmakers who feel that the only thing to deal with is "pure" film, the emulsion itself and things like that. And they do some interesting investigations. But that's not what my attitude toward film is about. I really come out of mainstream film, what it means to replace one image by another.

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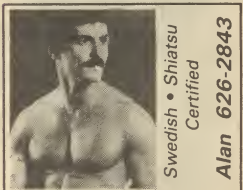
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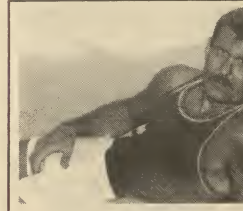
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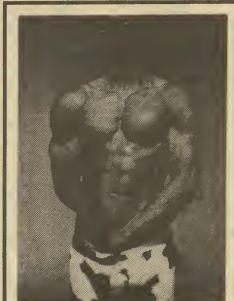
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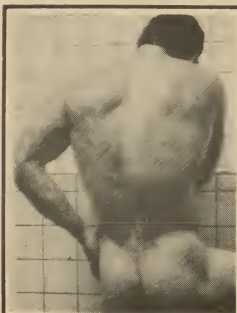


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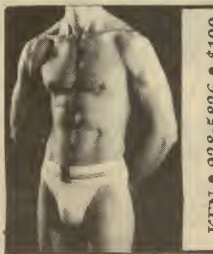
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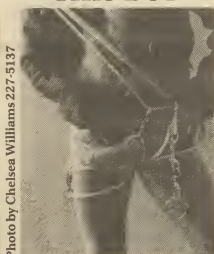


Photo by Chelsea Williams 227-5137

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Horse-hung blind jok 285-4319

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Totally Masculine Hunk
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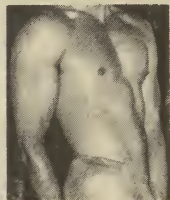
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Creative, verbal, warm, wild,
sane. My slingroom is well
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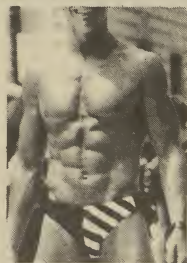
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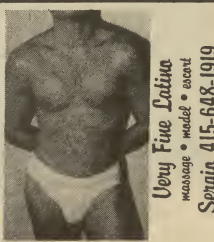
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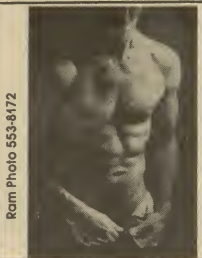
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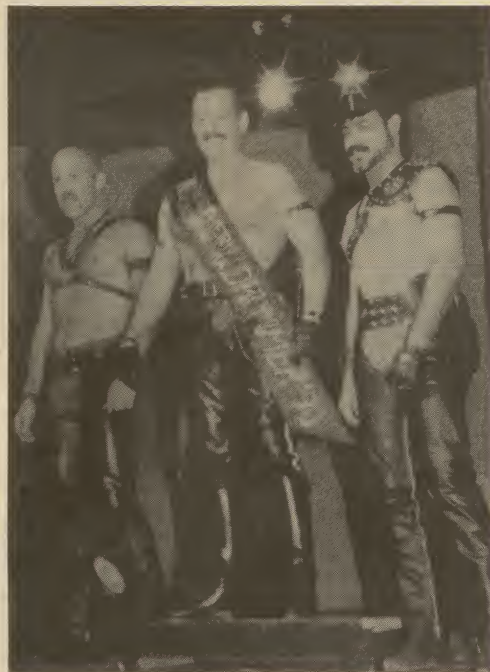
MR. MARCUS

Mr. No. California Drummer: Steve Lesh

San Jose's Steve Lesh came the closest to getting 5,000 possible points from seven judges at the Mr. Northern California Drummer Contest last Saturday night, April 28 at the Club Townsend. The pride of the South Bay and S.L.U.G. prevailed over five other contestants in all aspects of the judging to receive the sash and the title that will take him to the Mr. Drummer finals in September. Mr. San Francisco Drummer Joe Hollinger was the first runner-up and Fresno's Ric Lewis garnered the 2nd runner-up spot. Interestingly, all three of these men were the first place winners in the regional (South Bay, Central Valley and San Francisco) preliminaries held in April.

The judging panel was a star-studded line up as well: IMsL, I, Judy Tallwing McCarthy (looking glamorous and svelte) became the first woman ever to judge a Drummer contest at any level. The current Mr. Drummer Brian Dawson, looking every bit the title holder, headed the panel comprised of Palm Drive Video's Jack Fritscher, leather artist Robert "Cirby" Kirk, Marathon Films' Terry LeGrand and New World Rubber Club founders Bill Bailey and David Gee. They all admitted their job wasn't an easy one.

Under the direction of Dungeon Fantasies Productions, the show was only 20 minutes late getting started with outgoing Mr. Northern California Drummer Steve Patten and Gabrielle Antolovich, the current IMsL., tripping the light fantastic to a tune that had erotic undertones. Next came Irene Soderberg, rhapsodizing to suggestive lyrics with all the con-

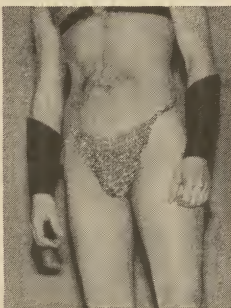


(L. to r.): Joe Hollinger (1st runner-up), Steve Lesh, Mr. Northern California Drummer and Ric Lewis, 2nd runner-up.

(Photo: Michael Patterson)

testants and a couple of muscular cuties (Brett Lancaster and Stewart Siegel from the Eagle '90 Bare Chest Calendar).

Subjected to a pre-judging session earlier in the day, the



Leather & metal on Kevin McCarthy at the Mr. Northern California Drummer Contest last Saturday night.

(Photo: Marcus)

six contestants went through the preliminary appearance, their fantasies and their leather image onstage. Steve and Gabrielle kept the pace going with two short intermissions and there was no evidence of any glitches throughout.

The "moment of truth" came shortly after 2200 when the envelopes were delivered to the stage, immediately after all the VIP titleholders present were introduced (nice gesture!). Brian Dawson gave a brief but meaningful speech about his year thus far as Mr. Drummer (not at all preachy!) to an appreciative audience. Then the results were read and much jubilation all around.

It was obvious that S.L.U.G. was there in force, including So. Bay Daddy's Boy Jacques there with the Intl. Mr. Leather trip raffle tickets for sale. There's only nine (9) more days



Mr. Drummer 1989 Brian Dawson addresses the audience while all the leather V.I.P. guests were onstage.

(Photo: Marcus)



Joe Hollinger performs a strenuous fantasy for the judges at the Northern California Drummer Contest last Saturday night.

(Photo: Marcus)

to buy the \$2 ducats that will benefit the Billy de Frank Center in San Jose and the SF AIDS Emergency Fund. The drawing for the IML package will take place on Saturday night, May 12 at the Mr. SF Leather Contest at the Eagle. The 2nd prize is a free weekend for two at the Triple R for the Leather Weekend in July.

Steve Lesh will now have plenty of time to prepare for the Mr. Drummer finals in September. He is also the Leather Daddy of San Jose and his schedule is filling up rapidly. His Mr. South Bay Drummer title was passed on to the runner-up, David Carranza, another very, very busy leather man. Summing up, Mr. Northern California Drummer — good show, great audience and it's all over until September when the winners of the other regions will arrive for the biggie.

★ ★ ★

And speaking of the other regions, the Mr. Drummer Germany contest was held in that city on Easter Sunday to a sell-out crowd of over 500. In Berlin, it was billed as the Herr Deutschland Drummer. There were hundreds of people left outside because the Connection Bar was completely sold

out. They raised some 7,000 DM for local AIDS charities. Under the direction of Terry LeGrand of Marathon Films, there were nine hot contestants. In the final tally, a stunningly hot young man by the name of Christian Dreesen took the title — another first in Drummer annals.

Christian was born in East Berlin and had been jailed for a minor infraction in his youth. He was bought out of prison and escaped to West Berlin. He didn't see any of his family for many years and when the Berlin Wall came tumbling down, he finally experienced a reunion with them. A very interesting life for someone so young. He doesn't speak any English yet, but you'll want to meet him anyway when he gets here in September. According to everyone who was there, this man is the epitome of *The Wild One*. They say his fantasy was incredibly imaginative and wild.

Terry LeGrand will also produce the Mr. New Zealand Drummer contest in Auckland in mid-June, followed by the Mr. Amsterdam Drummer (in a cathedral, no less) in July and the Mr. London Drummer in August. He will also co-produce with "Iron Mike" Pereyra, the Mr. Southern Cal-



The title-winning fantasy. Steve Lesh performs his fantasy for the judges on the way to winning the Mr. Northern California Drummer title.

(Photo: Marcus)

ifornia Drummer competition in a hot new venue in Los Angeles on Saturday, June 23.

★ ★ ★

Leather contest mania continues. Last Friday night, April 27, the Watering Hole staged their final heat for the Mr. Watering Hole Leather title. The bar was packed to the rafters and the crowd was most enthusiastic.

Judges Mike Chase, Bill Johansen and leather maven Dan Garcia had their hands full. In what looked like a mini-IML preview, the six contestants performed magnificently as manager Scott Cain breathed a sigh of relief. He had installed a special sound system for the occasion and even the yuppie contingent in the area peeked in on the action. Master of Ceremonies Vern Stewart handled the contestants deftly and they were well-versed in their leather lifestyles. When it was all over, a very masculinely robust man took the title. His name is Ray

(Continued on page 54)



Christian Dreesen is Mr. Drummer Germany, chosen in Berlin on Easter Sunday.

(Photo: Marathon Films)

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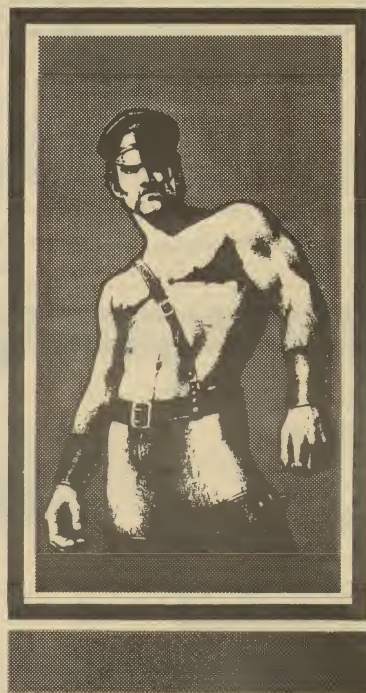
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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Tilton. The runner up was Devon Raphael. Ray will represent that bar at the Mr. SF Leather competition on May 12. The month-long heats at the Watering Hole were very well attended and they had more participants in their competition than any I've heard of anywhere. Good show. Good vibes.

★ ★ ★

There's a whole lot of shaking going on this month. Call it the *Inferno of the Studs*, if you will. Here's a quick rundown for the remainder of the week and beyond:

Thursday, May 3:

Looking for Mr. July 1991 at the SF-Eagle tonight for the bare chest calendar. Winner gets \$100 and a spot on the world famous calendar, beginning at 2200.

Friday, May 4:

Rest up for the weekend. If anything leather is going on tonight, nobody told me unless it's in the streets and alleys. You want to look good for the rest of the weekend don't you?

Saturday, May 5:

The exciting cast of Folsom Follies will party tonight to celebrate their triumph just a few weeks ago from 2000-2200. The video of the entire show will be shown during the festivities, so if you were in it or any part of it, be there and see yourself on the multi-screen system at the Eagle.

The Mexicans are celebrating their liberation from the French and since they're our neighbors, why not join in the celebration? At The Heat in San Jose, it's a Cinco de Mayo carnival party from 1500-1900 and only \$1 admission to benefit the SLUG/Heat float committee. Booths will have food, hug-a-hunk, cream-a-big-shot, Wheel of Sleaze, raffle, burritos, nachos, hot dogs and — get this — a dildo toss!

Today is the Kentucky Derby too. Check your TV guide for time and station and watch for "Summer Squall" one of the dark horses that may just win it.

Tireless Tatiana and his gang of entertainers will swing out at Kimos at 2200. This one will have the vivacious Pat Montclair in the show plus 7 others — only \$5 to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Sunday, May 6:

Cal Eagles Cinco de Mayo beer bust at the SF-Eagle from 1500-1800, fun, booze, food, flooze!

The Stud Puppies (softball team) are having a beer bust from 1600-2200 at the Stud for only \$3 and all the beer you can drink and dancing. They're trying to raise money so the team can go to a softball tournament in Boston. The "Puppies" are also having a pool party at the Oasis on June 2 for only \$5. Stud manager Stanley Walker is in total control while Jim (aka Lady Edie) is in Key West. Everyone on the staff is praying Edie will come back with all her own jewelry this year. Some people keep making the same mistakes!

A jazz marathon at the New Delhi (160 Ellis) today from 1500-2300 with lots of artists (Denise Perrier, Mark Murphy, Danny Boy Foster) to name only a few. It's a benefit for the Shanti Project with neat door prizes. They're even donating



Mr. Watering Hole Leather 1990 Ray Tilton, selected last Friday night. He will compete for Mr. SF Leather on May 12.

(Photo: Marcus)

20 percent of their bar receipts. Call Jim Wolff for a reservation: 397-8470.

The Kthar Sissies are having a "Maycrowning" (?) at 890 Folsom from 1500 on. They "suggest" a \$7 donation to benefit Nomenus (?) and want you to wear dark pants, white shirts, blouses and much less later on. Does this item mystify you as much as it does me?

Monday, May 7:

Deadline for Mr. SF Leather contestants. Drop applications off at The Galleon or the Eagle. Are you reading this Detour, Mint, Powerhouse, My Place??

Wednesday, May 9:

Bondage Buddies, 2000 hours, \$7 at the usual location. Call 621-6294 for more info.

Other Important

Dates: The Castro Lions roast Tom Rodgers, 1930 hours at Chinatown's Grand Palace, Friday, May 11. The \$25 tickets are on sale at Mister S and includes a nine-course Chinese banquet. Everyone wants a piece of Tom's ass that night and I think they're going to get it! May 12: the Mr. SF Leather Contest at the Eagle. Free! Get one of those dazzling black and silver pins. All details will be herein next week.

The Dish-Mobile

Fred McClure, the regular boot black in the Eagle patio on Sundays is headed for

surgery and lengthy recuperation, so the rambunctious Mark Tully will be 'a'pittin' and a'whackin' from 1500-1800 every Sunday. From what I saw last Sunday, he gives good boot shine.

Who can forget those halcyon days at the Balcony on Upper Market when a literal galaxy of bartenders served up your every whim? Remember the "Fox"? He's still up to his old tricks, well, maybe that should read "new" tricks — the latest in a long line is Freddy Borders — a man that is very easy to look at. The "Fox" always had good taste.

And speaking of partners, one of our local Castro entrepreneurs threw out his long-time significant other last week when he discovered that all his booze was being consumed while said entrepreneur was at work all day — and the contents of the bottles substituted with... water! Too bad the errant drinker is too old for guidance at the Larkin Street Youth Center!

Hey, it's been fun. Have a good time and if you own a dog that's cute, talented, can smile or has good buns, you might want to prepare him/her for the big Dog Show & Contest coming to 18th & Castro on Sunday, June 17 — my exclusive scoop for this week! Hey, live, love, laugh (but not at men in glasses), just do it in leather! ▼



Former Empress Pat Montclair with judge Bill Johansen at Watering Hole Mr. Leather contest.

(Photo: Marcus)

VIDEO

Well, Suck My Toe!

by Mark Johnson

SWEET IN THE BOOTIE

Released by: Jocks
Produced and directed by: Street Times Video
Cast: Joey Stefano, Michael Brandon, Grant King, Matthew Windsor, Jeff Karls, Brian White, Ryan Gold and Kenneth Johnson

Jocks is known for bringing the best in young models to the video screen, and *Sweet in the Bootie*, their new release, is no exception. Street Times Video has assembled a large cast of good looking young men and photographed them beautifully.

The action takes place in a beach house which has been prepared for the winter months. This is the last fling for these young men who are on their way back to school from a summer vacation.

Knowing this may be their last chance for awhile, these boys go at it to make it last. Joey Stefano is his appealing best and the side-saddle approach of Joey's partner is a sight to behold.

I don't know about you, but I'm personally incredibly bored by the pairing of Matthew Windsor and Grant King. They have been each other's only partners in the last four films I've seen them in. Both of them are enjoyable, but together it's like rewatching the same scene over and over again. Branch out, guys.

Opera

(Continued from page 35)

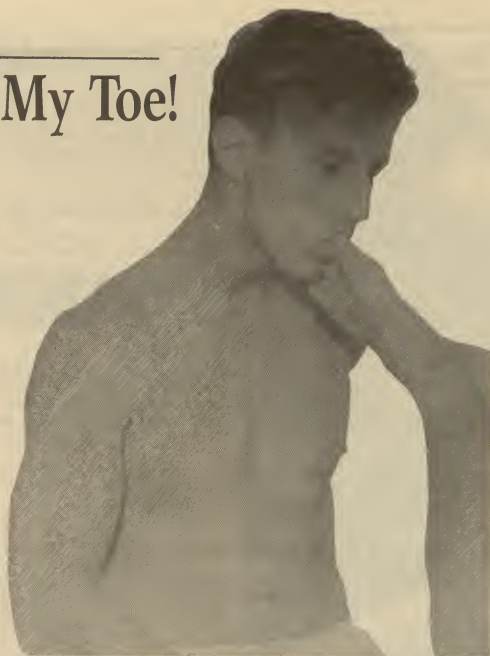
of the Creation and tolerating some heavily misogynistic descriptions of a woman's duties in life, the real fun began.

Listening to orgasmic groans that could have been taped at the old Folsom Street Barracks, I daintily tiptoed down the "Corridors of Sin," which (with their cheap styrofoam walls and red hellfire-and-brimstone backlighting) were designed to represent the centuries which elapsed between man's fall from innocence and the launching of Noah's Ark.

I still don't know which diorama seemed tackier: the Garden of Eden, with its plastic snake and eggplant-shaped red party lights (simulating the forbidden fruit) or the Biblical mudscape which was supposed to demonstrate what the earth looked like after the ark landed on Mt. Ararat.

All I know is that whenever I watch Tammy Faye Bakker cry through her mascara — or experience something as righteously grotesque as Oral Roberts' "Journey Through The Bible" — the sheepish gullibility with which the masses embrace such low-level forms of entertainment reminds me how lucky we all are that television hit the marketplace after Adolf Hitler's demise.

Who won the soft ball game?
See the latest team standings in B.A.R.



Can take 10 inches — and even a foot!

If your taste runs toward younger men, *Sweet in the Bootie* is just right for you. The film has just been released for mail order, so it may be awhile before you see it in your video

store. If you'd like to speed up your review write to Jocks at P.O. Box 6091, Dept. BC40, San Francisco, CA 94101 or call (800) 227-3717 or (415) 431-7722 inside California.

CASTRO MOTEL

Released by: Le Salon/Panther Productions/Greenwich Films
Produced by: Sky Walker
Directed by: William Richhe
Cast: Danny Brown, Tony Davis, Ty Jones, Grant King, Tony Sinatra, Christopher Tracy, Gene LaMar and Matthew Windsor

Somewhere in the Castro there is a motel where the guest check in for round-the-clock sexual encounters, while the motel manager, played here by Matthew Windsor, watches everything that goes on in each room on closed circuit television.

I'd like to recommend this film more highly, but it's just average at best. The models here have been seen countless times in videos with much higher production values.

So many situation possibilities suggested by motels were passed up (for instance, room service, maid service or perhaps a repairman or two) in favor of just finding two guests in their room for very uninspired encounters.

DUO

Released by: BFP Video
Cast: Tommy Golden, Darryl Harris, Gene LaMar, Shawn Richards, Steven A. Love and B.J. Simpson

A photographer is looking for new black models, but what goes on in the waiting room is the real story here in this triple pairing of six of the best models on video this year.

Tommy Golden has never been auditioned before, so Darryl Harris suggests he help him relax before his audition. This high-energy encounter leaves no doubt that the photographer has been waiting for Tommy to walk through the door.

Gene LaMar and Shawn Richards are the next partners in a nice, but incomplete scene. When you've got one of the hottest bottoms on film (LaMar) in the scene, not to top him is what I'd call a real crime against nature.

The best is saved for last in the duo of Steven A. Love and B.J. Simpson. Simpson is a miracle worker in taking and enjoying one of the largest endowments in male porno. Steven Love is a great performer who can almost do his scene from another room.

The lighting in *Duo* is not up to par, but all in all, this is another great effort by the best producers of video featuring black men. Catalogs are available from BFP by writing to P.O. Box 42691-E, Los Angeles, CA 90050.

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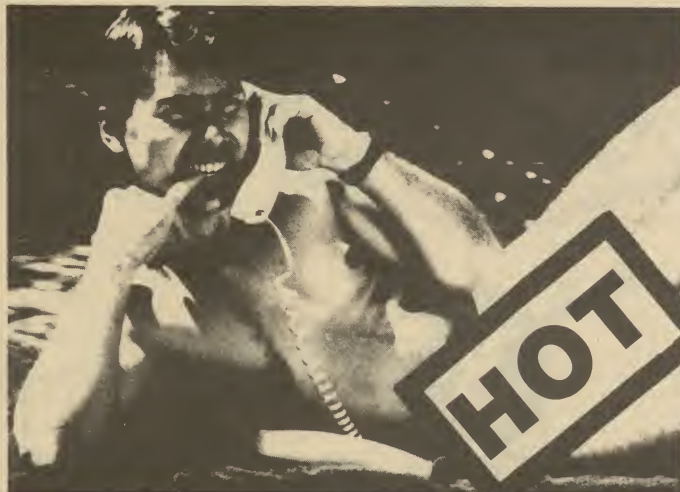
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The "Jazz Marathon for AIDS," a benefit for Shanti Project, takes place Sunday, May 6, from 3 to 11 p.m. at the New Delhi Restaurant, 160 Ellis St. in San Francisco. The event will feature a number of Bay Area jazz and blues performers, including Mark Mur-

phy, Denise Perrier, Blues Per Square Inch, Max & Mona, The Jesters, Toni Di Amato, Gwen Phoenix Womack, Cathi Walkup & Backup, Danny Boy Foster, Graham Bruce and Ensemble, and surprise guests.

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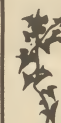
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